

FACT SHEET

Air Quality: Revision to the Regulatory Definition of Volatile Organic Compounds – Requirements for t-Butyl Acetate

ACTION

- On January 29, 2015, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed to remove remaining Clean Air Act volatile organic compound (VOC) requirements for t-Butyl Acetate (TBAC).
- The proposed amendments would remove recordkeeping, emissions reporting, photochemical dispersion modeling and emission inventory requirements related to the use of TBAC as a VOC. These requirements continue to apply only to TBAC.
- In 2004, EPA exempted TBAC from regulation as a VOC for purposes of meeting the national ambient air quality standards for ozone. This action would not impact that exemption (69 FR 69298, November 29, 2004).
- TBAC is used as a solvent in paints, inks and adhesives, in which it substitutes for compounds that are regulated as VOCs that contribute to the formation of ground-level ozone.

BACKGROUND

- EPA has no evidence that TBAC is being used at levels that would cause concern for ozone formation. This action would relieve state and local air pollution control agencies and the industry that produces TBAC from unnecessary regulatory requirements.
- In November 2004, TBAC was excluded as a VOC as a result of a public petition and new scientific data that demonstrate its negligible effect on the formation of ground-level ozone. Since 1977, the EPA has removed 63 specific compounds (including TBAC) or classes of compounds from the list of VOCs that contribute to ozone formation.
- The EPA's policy on VOCs was codified on February 3, 1992, in a revised regulation, "Requirements for Preparation, Adoption, and Submittal of State Implementation Plans." Additional guidance was given in the September 13, 2005 'Interim Guidance on Control of Volatile Organic Compounds in Ozone State Implementation Plans.'

HOW TO COMMENT

- The EPA will accept comment on this proposal for 30 days following publication in the Federal Register.
- Comments should be identified by Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2013-0795 and submitted by one of the following methods:
 - Federal eRulemaking Portal (<http://www.regulations.gov>),
 - e-mail (a-and-r-docket@epa.gov),
 - Mail (EPA Docket Center, Environmental Protection Agency, Mail code 28221T, WJC West Building, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20460), or
 - Hand delivery (EPA Docket Center, Environmental Protection Agency, WJC West Building, Room 3334, 1301 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC).

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Interested parties can download the rule from EPA's Web site on the Internet under Recent Actions at the following address: <http://www.epa.gov/glo/actions.html>.

- Other places to read the proposed rule and background information (use Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2013-0795)
- **EPA's electronic public docket and comment system** at <http://www.regulations.gov>.
- **The EPA Docket Center's Public Reading Room** (for hard copies).
 - The Public Reading Room is located at EPA Headquarters, Room Number 3334 in EPA WJC West Building, 1301 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC. Hours of operation are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. eastern standard time, Monday through Friday, excluding federal holidays. The telephone number for the Public Reading Room is (202) 566-1744, and the telephone number for the Air and Radiation Docket is (202) 566-1742.
 - You will have to show photo identification, pass through a metal detector, and sign the EPA visitor log. Any materials you bring with you will be processed through an X-ray machine as well. You will be provided a badge that must be visible at all times.
- For further information about these actions, contact Souad Benromdhane of EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, at (919) 541-4359 or by e-mail at benromdhane.souad@epa.gov.