

Technical Amendment to the National Emission Standards for Printing, Coating, and Dyeing of Fabrics and Other Textiles

FACT SHEET

ACTION

- On July 29, 2004, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) amended its regulation to reduce toxic air emissions from industrial facilities that print, coat, and dye fabrics and other textiles. This technical amendment clarifies that the national emissions standards for hazardous air pollution (NESHAP) for printing, coating, and dyeing of fabrics and other textiles, also known as the Fabric NESHAP, does not apply to coating, slashing, dyeing, or finishing operations at synthetic fiber manufacturing facilities where the fibers are the final product of the facility.
- The industrial source category “printing, coating, and dyeing of fabrics and other textiles” does not include synthetic fiber manufacturing operations. EPA did not intend to impose any requirements on such operations in the final Fabric NESHAP.
- Toxic air emissions from finishing steps such as coating, slashing, dyeing, and finishing operations in the synthetic fiber manufacturing process were addressed during the development of other national emissions standards.
- There are no new health or environmental benefits associated with this action. There are no additional costs imposed by this action.

BACKGROUND

- Under the Clean Air Act, EPA is required to regulate emissions of 188 listed toxic air pollutants. The Clean Air Act also requires EPA to identify industrial or source categories that emit one or more of these pollutants. The Clean Air Act further requires EPA to develop emission standards requiring stringent air pollution reduction measures for each of the identified source categories.
- EPA’s published list of industry groups to be regulated includes fabric coating, printing, and dyeing.
- Coating, printing, and dyeing operations emit a number of toxic air pollutants including toluene, methyl ethyl ketone, methanol, xylenes, methyl isobutyl ketone, methylene chloride, trichloroethylene, n-hexane, glycol ethers, and formaldehyde. Health effects associated with these pollutants include irritation of the eye, lung, and mucous membranes; effects on the central nervous system; and damage to the liver. Methylene chloride and trichloroethylene are classified as carcinogens.

- The EPA Administrator signed the final national emissions standard for this industry group in February 2003.
- EPA estimates that there are approximately 135 existing facilities, nationwide, that will be affected by this rule. Another three new major sources are expected to be constructed within the 5-year period following publication of the final rule, and they will also be affected.
- The final rule requires existing facilities that are subject to the rule to limit air toxic emissions. These facilities will have up to 3 years from the date of publication of the final rule to comply with its requirements.
- For both new and existing sources, the emission limits can be met by pollution prevention techniques.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- To download the technical amendment from EPA's website on the internet, go to "Recent Actions" at the following address: <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg/>.
- For general information about the standards, contact Mr. Paul Almodóvar of EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, Emission Standards Division, Coatings and Consumer Products Group at (919) 541-0283, or by electronic mail at: almodovar.paul@epa.gov. Or visit the fabric coating, printing, and dyeing (surface coating) website at: <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/atw/coat/fabric/>.
- The EPA's Office of Air and Radiation (OAR) homepage on the Internet contains a wide range of information on the air toxics program and many other air pollution programs and issues. The OAR's home page address is: <http://www.epa.gov/oar/>.
- This source category was assigned electronic docket number OAR-2003-0014.