

FACT SHEET

FINAL RULE TO REDUCE TOXIC AIR POLLUTANT EMISSIONS FROM METAL COIL SURFACE COATING FACILITIES

TODAY'S ACTION

- ! The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is issuing a final rule to reduce toxic air pollutant emissions from metal coil surface coating facilities. Toxic air pollutants, also known as air toxics, are those pollutants known or suspected to cause cancer or other serious health and environmental problems.

- ! Metal coil coating is the process of applying a coating (usually protective or decorative) to one or both sides of a continuous strip of sheet metal. Industries using coated metal include: transportation, building products, appliances, can manufacturing, and packaging. Other products using coated metal coil include measuring tapes, ventilation systems for walls and roofs, lighting fixtures, office filing cabinets, cookware, and sign stock material.

BACKGROUND

- ! Under the Clean Air Act, EPA is required to regulate emissions of 188 listed toxic air pollutants. The Act also requires EPA to identify industrial or "source" categories that emit one or more of these toxic air pollutants. For categories of "major" sources (those that emit 10 tons per year or more of a listed pollutant or 25 tons per year or more of a combination of pollutants), the Clean Air Act requires EPA to develop standards that require the application of stringent air pollution reduction measures known as maximum achievable control technology.

- ! Metal coil coating has been identified as a major source of air toxic emissions, including methyl ethyl ketone, glycol ethers, xylenes (isomers and mixtures), toluene, and isophorone. These air toxics are emitted mostly during the coating application and curing operations. Health problems caused by breathing these air toxics include eye, nose, throat, and skin irritation, and blood cell, heart, liver, and kidney damage.

- ! EPA's published list of source categories includes metal coil surface coating.

- ! Today's action is expected to affect approximately 90 metal coil coating facilities.

- ! EPA proposed limits on air toxic emissions from the metal coil surface coating industry in July of 2000.

BENEFITS AND COSTS

- ! EPA expects today's final rule to reduce air toxic emissions from 2,484 tons per year to 1,168 tons per year, a 53-percent reduction over current levels.
- ! Additional benefits of this action include a 53 percent decrease in emissions of volatile organic compound emissions. These air pollutants contribute to the formation of ground-level ozone, the primary constituent of smog. When inhaled, even at very low levels, ground-level ozone can cause acute respiratory problems, aggravate asthma, reduce lung capacity, inflame lung tissue, and impair the body's immune system.
- ! EPA estimates the total nation-wide capital cost resulting from implementing today's rule will be \$18.1 million. The total nationwide annual cost will be approximately \$7.6 million.
- ! The annual cost of complying with the final rule will be less than 2 percent of the value of coating services. The EPA does not expect facilities to cease or alter their current coating operations as a result of this final rule.

FINAL RULE REQUIREMENTS

- ! The final rule requires that all new and existing "major" air toxics sources in the metal coil coating industry meet specific emission limits on a yearly basis. The emission limits, which apply to the coating application and curing operations within each affected facility, require that emissions be reduced by 98 percent or to a level that does not exceed 0.38 pound of air toxics per gallon of coating solids applied.
- ! Sources may choose to use either pollution prevention measures (compliant coating materials) or add-on emission control systems to meet the emission limits.
- ! Facilities are required to meet certain recordkeeping and reporting requirements, including semiannual compliance reports.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- ! To download the final rule and background information document from EPA's website on the Internet, go to "Recent Actions" at the following address:
<http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg/ramain.html>.
- ! The final rule and background information document are also available through EPA's Air and Radiation Docket and Information Center (Docket Number A-97-47) by calling (202) 260-7548 or fax (202) 260-4000 (a reasonable fee may be charged for copying).

- ! For general information about the final standards, contact Rhea Jones of EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, Emission Standards Division, Coatings and Consumer Products Group at (919) 541-2940, or by electronic mail at: jones.rhea@epa.gov. Or visit the metal coil surface coating website at <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/atw/mcoil/mcoilpg.html>.

- ! The EPA's Office of Air and Radiation's (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 home page address is <http://www.epa.gov/oar/>.