

# Proposed Air Toxics Rule for Non-Gasoline Organic Liquid Distribution Operations Fact Sheet

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## TODAY'S ACTION

- The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing a rule to limit toxic air emissions from facilities that distribute organic liquids other than gasoline. Toxic air pollutants, or air toxics, are those pollutants known or suspected of causing cancer or other serious health effects.
- Organic liquids is the term given to a number of liquid chemicals, such as benzene, vinyl chloride and toluene. Organic liquid distribution takes place at liquid terminal facilities, organic chemical manufacturing facilities, petroleum refineries, crude oil pipeline pumping and breakout stations, and other industrial facilities that have a organic liquid distribution operation.
- Air toxics are those pollutants known or suspected to cause cancer and other serious health or developmental problems. The proposed rule would regulate emissions of 64 air toxics, including benzene, ethylbenzene, toluene, vinyl chloride and xylenes.
- The regulation would affect approximately 650 facilities that distribute organic liquids.

## BACKGROUND

- The Clean Air Act of 1990 requires EPA to identify source categories that emit one or more listed 188 air toxics.
- For major sources within each source category, the law requires EPA to develop standards that restrict emissions to levels consistent with the lowest-emitting (also called best-performing) plants.
- Major sources are those that emit 10 tons or more a year of a single air toxic or 25 tons or more a year of a combination of toxics.

## BENEFITS AND COST

- The proposed rule would reduce air toxic emissions by about 27,000 tons a year, or 30 percent from 1997 levels. Among the toxics reduced are benzene and vinyl chloride, which have been classified by EPA as Group A human carcinogens. An increased incidence of leukemia has been observed in individuals occupationally exposed to benzene. Vinyl chloride has been shown to increase the risk of a rare form of liver cancer in humans.

- The rule also would reduce emissions of volatile organic compounds, which contribute to the formation of ground-level ozone (smog). VOC emissions would be reduced by 44,000 tons a year, or 30 percent from 1997 levels.
- EPA estimates the total capital cost for industry to comply with the rule at \$163.5 million and the annual cost at \$81 million nationwide.
- EPA will take public comment for 60 days starting on publication in the *Federal Register*. EPA will hold a public hearing if requested within 20 days of *Register* publication.

## **WHAT THE PROPOSED RULE REQUIRES**

- The proposed rule would require the installation of strict emission controls known as "maximum achievable control technology," or MACT. MACT controls would be required at three emission points: storage tanks; transfer racks; and equipment leaks. The equipment used for the distribution of organic liquids and the control of emissions from that equipment is the same throughout the industries included in the source category.
  - Storage tanks would be required to control emissions by using a floating roof cover or a fixed roof cover and venting to a control device.
  - Transfer racks -- Control would be required for racks that load 3.12 million gallons of liquids with an air toxics content of 5 percent or greater.
- Equipment leak provisions will affect equipment that contains or has contact with any organic liquid that has air toxics content of 5 percent or greater for at least 300 hours per month. For such equipment, a leak detection-and-repair program using an organic vapor detection instrument is required.
- The proposed rule also requires the use of tank covers and equipment leak detection and repair programs. By requiring tank covers and controlling equipment leaks, this rule encourages pollution prevention.

## **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

- To download the proposed rule from EPA's web site, go to <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg/ramain.html>
- To comment on the proposed rule in writing, send comments (in duplicate if possible) to: Air and Radiation Docket and Information Center (6102), Attention Docket Number A-98-13, Room M-1500, U.S. EPA, 401 M Street, SW, Washington, DC 20460
- For additional information, contact Martha E. Smith of the EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919) 541-2421 or by e-mail at [smith.martha@epa.gov](mailto:smith.martha@epa.gov).

- EPA's Office of Air and Radiation's homepage on the Internet contains a wide range of information on the air toxics program, as well as many other air pollution programs and issues. The address is: [www.epa.gov/oar/](http://www.epa.gov/oar/).