

FACT SHEET

FINAL AMENDMENTS TO FINAL AIR TOXICS RULEMAKING FOR HYDROCHLORIC ACID PRODUCTION FACILITIES

ACTION

- On (insert signature date), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finalized amendments to its final rule controlling emissions of toxic air pollutants during hydrochloric acid (HCl) production. EPA issued the final air toxics standards for facilities that produce HCl in April 2003 (68 FR 19075).
- Hydrochloric acid is used in a variety of industrial processes including:
 - refining ore for the production of tin and tantalum,
 - pickling and cleaning of metal products,
 - electroplating,
 - cleaning boilers,
 - neutralizing chemically basic systems,
 - manufacturing fertilizers, dyes, textiles and rubber, and
 - preparing various food products.Hydrochloric acid is also used as a laboratory reagent.
- Exposure to HCl and chlorine may produce a wide variety of human health effects including irritation of the lungs, skin, and mucous membranes; dysfunction of the central nervous system; and digestive and respiratory problems.
- The April 2003 rule will protect human health and the environment by reducing toxic air emissions of HCl and chlorine by approximately 49 percent from 1993 levels. EPA estimates total annual air toxic reductions of 1,585 tons per year when the rule is fully implemented.
- These final amendments subject certain facilities that process hazardous waste feedstocks to the final rule. These amendments facilitate compliance and improve understanding of the final rule requirements.
- In addition, the final amendments clarify certain applicability provisions; emission standards; and testing, maintenance, and reporting requirements based on concerns raised by the industry. The amendments also correct several omissions and typographical errors in the rule.

BACKGROUND

- The Clean Air Act requires EPA to regulate emissions of 188 listed toxic air pollutants. For major sources, those with the potential to emit 10 tons or more annually of a listed pollutant or 25 tons or more of a combination of listed pollutants, the Clean Air Act requires the application of strict controls known as maximum achievable control technology.
- In 1992, EPA developed a list of industrial categories that will be subject to air toxic emission controls. EPA included HCl production and fume silica production on that list. Fume silica is a fine white powder used as a thickener, or reinforcing agent in inks, resins, rubber, paints, and cosmetics.
- The April 2003 final rule affects new, reconstructed, and existing HCl production facilities located or built at a facility considered a major source of air toxics under the Clean Air Act. The rule only applies to HCl production facilities that produce liquid HCl at a concentration of 30 percent by weight or greater.
- The final rule limits toxic air emissions from process vents (HCl and chlorine), storage tanks (HCl), and transfer operations (HCl). Owners/operators of equipment with toxic air emissions from leaking equipment in HCl service are required to prepare and operate according to an equipment leak detection and repair plan.
- EPA estimated that the capital cost associated with the final rule would be approximately \$23 million. The total annual cost of the rule is estimated to be approximately \$8 million, including an estimate of the costs of: controls and monitoring equipment, operation and maintenance of the control and monitoring equipment, and the annual labor to comply with the reporting and recordkeeping requirements of the rule. These costs are for 65 existing and 10 new sources in the 5th year following promulgation.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- To download the final rule from EPA's web site, go to "Recent Actions" at the following address: <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg>.
- For further information about the proposed rule, contact Mr. Randy McDonald at EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at 919-541-5402.