

FACT SHEET

FINAL REGULATION TO REDUCE TOXIC AIR POLLUTANT EMISSIONS FROM ORGANIC LIQUID DISTRIBUTION (NON-GASOLINE) ACTIVITIES

ACTION

- On August 25, 2003, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a final rule to reduce emissions of toxic air pollutants from facilities that distribute organic liquids other than gasoline.
- Toxic air pollutants, also known as air toxics, are those pollutants known or suspected to cause cancer or other serious health and environmental problems.
- Organic liquid distribution (OLD) takes place at liquid terminal facilities, organic chemical manufacturing facilities, petroleum refineries, crude oil pipeline pumping and breakout stations, and other industrial facilities.
- At existing sources, the final rule requires emissions controls and/or requirements for work practices for three groups of emission points: storage tanks, transfer racks, and equipment leaks.

Storage tanks will be required to have a fixed roof and vent emissions to a control device or have an internal or external floating roof with specified seals and fitting controls.

Transfer racks (e.g., loading arms, pumps, meters, shutoff valves, and relief valves) will be required to vent emissions to a control device or use a vapor balancing system.

A leak detection and repair program will be required for equipment (e.g., pumps, valves, and connectors).

- At new sources, the final rule also requires controls for container-filling operations in addition to the controls required at existing sources.
- The final rule will affect approximately 380 facilities that distribute organic liquids.
- Existing facilities distributing organic liquids that are subject to the final rule

are required to be in compliance within 3 years from the date the final rule is published in the *Federal Register*.

BENEFITS AND COSTS

- The EPA estimates the final rule will reduce emissions of air toxics by 60 percent (about 3,500 tons per year) from current levels. The final rule will also reduce

volatile organic compound emissions by about 70 percent (about 9,900 tons per year) from current levels. 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.

- The EPA estimates the total nationwide capital cost for facilities to comply with the final rule to be \$49.3 million. The total nationwide annual cost will be approximately \$25.1 million.

BACKGROUND

- Under the Clean Air Act, EPA is required to regulate emissions of 188 specific air toxics. The final rule will address 98 of those air toxics, including benzene, ethyl benzene, toluene, vinyl chloride, and xylenes.
- On July 16, 1992, EPA published a list of industry groups, known as source categories, that emit one or more of these air toxics. For listed categories of "major" sources (those that have the potential to emit 10 tons per year or more of a single listed air toxic or 25 tons per year or more of a combination of air toxics), the Clean Air Act requires EPA to develop standards that restrict emissions to levels consistent with the lowest emitting (also called best-performing) facilities. These standards are based on stringent air pollution reduction measures known as maximum achievable control technology.
- The proposed OLD rule was published in the *Federal Register* on April 2, 2002 soliciting public comment on it. As a result of the comments, EPA has clarified various aspects of the rule and the control requirements for storage tanks and transfer racks.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Interested parties can download the final rule from EPA's website on the Internet, go to "Recent Actions" at the following address:
www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg/ramain.html.
- For further information about the final rule, contact Ms. Martha Smith of the EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards by phone (919) 541-2421 or by e-mail at smith.martha@epa.gov.
- The EPA's Office of Air and Radiation's homepage on the Internet contains a wide range of information on the air toxics program, and many other air pollution programs and issues. The address is: www.epa.gov/oar/.