

## FACT SHEET

### DIRECT FINAL RULE TO EXCLUDE 2-AMINO-2-METHYL-1-PROPANOL (AMP) FROM CONTROL AS A VOLATILE ORGANIC COMPOUND

#### ACTION

- On March 21, 2014, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a direct final rule with a parallel proposal identifying 2-Amino-2-methyl-1-propanol (also known as AMP) as a chemical compound that it will no longer be regulated as a volatile organic compound (VOC) under the Clean Air Act. This will remove AMP from regulatory requirements related to controlling VOC emissions in order to meet the national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) for ozone. EPA will add AMP to the list of negligibly reactive compounds in EPA's regulatory definition of VOC.
- Some VOCs contribute significantly to the formation of ground-level ozone. Exposure to ozone can cause serious respiratory illness.
- EPA has carefully reviewed the available scientific data on the reactivity of AMP and considers it to be negligibly reactive because it contributes little or nothing to the formation of ground-level ozone and is not expected to contribute to violations of the NAAQS.
- The presence of this compound in the air does not appear to negatively impact human health or the environment.
  - AMP has a low global warming potential (GWP) compared to other compounds currently used for the purpose of pigment dispersion in water-based coating
  - This compound is not listed as a hazardous air pollutant under the Clean Air Act.
  - This compound does not contain bromine or chlorine atom, therefore it will have minimal impact to stratospheric ozone depletion.
  - Exposure to this compound is very low due to low volatility at room temperature.
- AMP is used for pigment dispersion in water-based coatings such as house paints. Excluding this compound from the regulatory definition of VOC, facilitates access to AMP for manufacturers of water-based coatings in order to meet VOCs limits without impairing the performance of their products or using other more toxic chemicals.
- EPA is issuing this action as a direct final rule because the Agency views it as noncontroversial and does not expect adverse comments. If adverse comments are received, EPA will address the comments in a subsequent final rule based on the parallel proposal also issued today.
- The direct final rule will be effective 90 days after publication in the *Federal Register* if no adverse comments are received.

## **BACKGROUND**

- The direct final with a parallel proposal rule would allow, but does not require, states to remove regulatory controls on AMP that are part of State Implementation Plans (SIP) designed to help states meet the NAAQS for ground-level ozone.
- A compound may be excluded as a VOC as a result of public petitions and new scientific data that demonstrate its negligible effect on the formation of ground-level ozone. Since 1977, EPA has removed 62 specific compounds or classes of compounds from the list of VOCs that contribute to ozone formation. EPA's policy on VOCs was codified on February 3, 1992 in a revised regulation, "Requirements for Preparation, Adoption, and Submittal of State Implementation Plans." Additional guidance was given in the September 13, 2005 'Interim Guidance on Control of Volatile Organic Compounds in Ozone State Implementation Plans.'

## **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

- To download these actions from EPA's website, go to <http://www.epa.gov/glo/actions.html>.
- Today's actions and other background information are also available either electronically at <http://www.regulations.gov>, EPA's electronic public docket and comment system, or in hardcopy at the EPA Docket Center's Public Reading Room.
  - The Public Reading Room is located at EPA Headquarters, room number 3334 in the EPA West Building, 1301 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC. Hours of operation are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. eastern standard time, Monday through Friday, excluding Federal holidays.
  - Visitors are required to show photographic identification, pass through a metal detector and sign the EPA visitor log. All visitor materials will be processed through an X-ray machine as well. Visitors will be provided a badge that must be visible at all times.
  - Materials for this final action can be accessed using Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2013-0775
- For further information about these actions, contact Souad Benromdhane of EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, at (919) 541-4359 or by e-mail at [benromdhane.souad@epa.gov](mailto:benromdhane.souad@epa.gov).

## **HOW TO COMMENT**

- EPA will accept comments on the parallel proposal for 60 days after publication in the *Federal Register*. Comments, identified by Docket ID No EPA-HQ-OAR-2013-0775, may be submitted by one of the following methods:
  - [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov): Follow the on-line instructions for submitting comments.

- Email: Comments may be sent by electronic mail (e-mail) to a-and-r-Docket@epa.gov.
- Fax: Fax your comments to: 202-566-9744, Attention Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2013-0775.
- Mail: Send your comments to: Air and Radiation Docket and Information Center, Environmental Protection Agency, Mail Code: 28221T, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20460.
- Hand Delivery or Courier: Deliver your comments to: EPA Docket Center, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1301 Constitution Avenue, NW, Room: 3334, Mail Code: 28221T, Washington, DC 20460, Attention Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2013-0775. Such deliveries are only accepted during the Docket's normal hours of operation, and special arrangements should be made for deliveries of boxed information.