

**SEPTEMBER 15, 2000**

## **FACT SHEET**

### **PROPOSED AIR TOXICS STANDARDS FOR RUBBER TIRE MANUFACTURING**

#### **TODAY'S ACTION**

- ! The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing a regulation to reduce emissions of toxic air pollutants from rubber tire manufacturing facilities.
- ! Air toxics, also called hazardous air pollutants, are those pollutants known or suspected to cause cancer or other serious health problems in humans.
- ! Today's proposed action focuses on reducing air toxics emitted during three following tire manufacturing operations: 1) operations using solvents and cements at tire production facilities; 2) tire cord production; and 3) puncture sealant applications. The proposed rule also would reduce emissions of volatile organic compounds.
- ! Today's proposal enables facilities to choose to comply with the rule's requirements using pollution prevention techniques on a facility-wide basis or by using an add-on control device to control emissions from various sources in the process.
- ! EPA worked with major stakeholders, including representatives from industry and state and local air pollution control agencies in developing the proposal.
- ! EPA will accept public comment on the proposal through 60 days after publication in the Federal Register. After reviewing all comments, the Agency anticipates issuing the final rule in 2001.

#### **HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS**

- ! EPA's proposed rule would reduce air toxic emissions from solvents, cements and coating material used in the tire manufacturing industry by approximately 1,100 tons annually, or by 53 percent from current levels.
- ! The air toxics reduced include hexane, toluene, formaldehyde, styrene and methanol, which are associated with a variety of adverse health effects. These effects include chronic health disorders (e.g., effects on the central nervous system and reproductive system) and acute health disorders (e.g., irritation of eyes, throat, mucous membranes, headache, nausea, and blurred

- vision). Two of the air toxics have been classified as probable or possible human carcinogens.
- ! The proposed rule would also reduce volatile organic compounds (VOCs), which contribute to the formation of ground-level ozone, the primary constituent of smog.

### **WHAT THE PROPOSED RULE REQUIRES**

- ! The proposed rule applies to all new or existing major source rubber tire manufacturing facilities. Major sources are those that emit 10 tons a year or more of a single toxic air pollutant, or 25 tons or more of a combination of pollutants.
- ! Tire production, tire cord production, and puncture sealant application operations are all affected by the proposed rule.
  - < **Tire production operations** would be required to reduce air toxic emissions by an average of 97 to 99 percent facility-wide, for individual facility emissions reductions ranging from less than 1 ton per year to over 250 tons per year. EPA estimates 31 of the 43 tire manufacturing facilities evaluated for this proposal would be affected by this requirement.
  - < **Tire cord production operations** would have to reduce air toxic emissions an average of 72 percent facility-wide. EPA estimates four tire cord facilities would be subject to this requirement and would reduce emissions by an average of 36 tons per year per facility.
  - < **Puncture sealant operations** would have to reduce air toxic emissions by 86 percent for existing puncture sealant coating production lines and 95 percent for new puncture sealant coating production lines. There is one puncture sealant operation subject to the rule. No additional controls would be required at this facility to comply with the proposed emission limitation.
- ! Many facilities subject to the proposed rule already have reduced their air toxic emissions by installing controls required by state or federal new source performance standard regulations or through the elimination of, or substitution for, air toxics in cements, solvents and coating materials used as processing aides. The actions of these facilities have set the standard to be achieved in this proposal.
- ! The monitoring, recordkeeping and reporting requirements in the proposed rule are similar to those required for other EPA air toxics regulations.
- ! The proposed rule attempts to reduce or eliminate any redundant monitoring burdens that may exist between existing new source performance standards and this proposed air toxics rule.

For example, the proposed rule would require facilities to demonstrate compliance with the emission standards by monitoring their control devices and performing daily recordkeeping.

### **COST OF THE PROPOSED RULE**

- ! EPA estimates that the total annual cost for affected tire production facilities to comply with the proposed rule to be approximately \$23.1 million. These costs include the costs to install add-on controls or reformulate cements and solvents as well as monitoring and recordkeeping..
- ! EPA estimates the total annual cost for affected tire cord production facilities to comply with the proposed rule to be approximately, \$2.76 million. These costs include the costs to install add-on controls or reformulate coatings as well as monitoring and recordkeeping.
- ! EPA estimates no capital costs for the existing puncture sealant operation. Total annual costs for monitoring, recordkeeping and reporting are included in the tire production cost estimates.
- ! EPA estimates the rule would increase the market price of tires by one cent per tire. Revenues or the value of domestic shipments for the industry are expected to increase by \$0.6 million, while operating profits will decrease by \$1.5 million. No rubber tire facilities are expected to close as a result of the regulation.

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

- ! To download a copy of the proposed rule, go to EPA's World Wide Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg/> under newly proposed or promulgated rules.
- ! For further information about the proposal, contact Mr. Anthony Wayne of EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919) 541-5439 or [wayne.tony@epa.gov](mailto:wayne.tony@epa.gov).
- ! Send any comments on the proposed rulemaking (in duplicate if possible) to: Air and Radiation Docket and Information Center (6102), Attention: Docket No. A-97-14, Room M-1500, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M Street, SW, Washington, DC 20460. You may also submit comments and data by electronic mail (e-mail) to: [A-and-R-Docket@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:A-and-R-Docket@epamail.epa.gov). Submit electronic comments as an ASCII file to avoid the use of special characters and encryption problems or in WordPerfect® version 5.1, 6.1, or Corel® 8 file format. Electronic comments and data must note the docket number (Docket No. A-97-14). You may file electronic comments online at many Federal Depository Libraries. Do not submit confidential business information (CBI) by e-mail. See the *Federal Register* notice for more information on how to handle the submittal of CBI.
- ! 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 Office of Air and Radiation's home page address is: (<http://www.epa.gov/oar/>).