

August 26, 2002

FACT SHEET

FINAL RULE TO REDUCE TOXIC AIR POLLUTANT EMISSIONS FROM PAPER AND OTHER WEB COATING FACILITIES

TODAY'S ACTION

- The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is issuing a final rule to reduce emissions of toxic air pollutants, also known as air toxics, from paper and other web coating (POWC) facilities.
- Air toxics are pollutants which are known or suspected to cause cancer or other serious health and environmental effects.
- EPA developed today's final rule in close partnership with major stakeholders, including representatives of the POWC industry and state and local agencies.

BACKGROUND

- Under the Clean Air Act, EPA is required to regulate emissions of 188 specific air toxics. 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/year or more of a single listed air toxic or 25 tons/year or more of a combination of air toxics), the Clean Air Act requires EPA to develop standards that are based on stringent air pollution controls, known as maximum achievable control technology.
- EPA's published list of industry groups to be regulated includes "Paper and Other Webs (Surface Coating)." To more clearly define the source category, EPA subsequently changed the title of that source category to "Paper and Other Web Coating."
- The POWC industry produces items such as pressure-sensitive tapes and labels, flexible packaging, photographic film, coated vinyl, wall coverings, sandpaper and other abrasives, paperboard boxes, vinyl flooring, industrial and decorative laminates, carbon paper and carbonless paper, circuit boards, and business forms.

HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

- The final rule will reduce emissions of air toxics from POWC operations at new and existing major sources by approximately 34,500 tons/year. This represents a reduction of approximately 80 percent from the estimated existing level of emissions. Most of these air toxics are also expected to be volatile organic compounds (VOC).

- VOC contribute significantly to ground-level ozone, or smog, which has been shown to cause adverse effects on human health and can damage forests and crops.
- Air toxics emitted by POWC operations include toluene, methanol, methyl ethyl ketone, xylenes, phenol, methylene chloride, ethylene glycol, glycol ethers, hexane, methyl isobutyl ketone, cresols and cresylic acid, dimethylformamide, vinyl acetate, formaldehyde, and ethyl benzene.
- Exposure to these pollutants may be associated with a number of adverse health effects, including blood cell, heart, liver, and kidney damage, as well as eye, nose, throat, skin irritation, and possibly cancer.

WHO WILL BE AFFECTED BY THE EPA'S FINAL RULE?

- The final rule applies to all facilities that operate web coating lines and are major sources of air toxics or are part of a facility that is a major source of air toxics.
- Based on currently available information, the EPA estimates that there are approximately 400 facilities nationwide that have web coating operations. Approximately 203 are major sources that would be affected by the final rule.
- Existing affected sources will have up to 3 years from the date of publication of the final rule to comply with its requirements.

FINAL RULE REQUIREMENTS

- The final rule establishes limitations for air toxic emissions and offers flexibility to the POWC industry by providing cost-effective options for both emission control and monitoring.
- The final rule requires affected industrial sources to apply existing and affordable control technologies to the web coating operations. Existing sources will have to limit emissions to (1) 5 percent of the mass of air toxics applied (95 percent control efficiency), (2) 4 percent of the mass of coating materials applied, or (3) 20 percent of the mass of coating solids applied.
- New sources will have to limit emissions to (1) 2 percent of the mass of air toxics applied (98 percent control efficiency), (2) 1.6 percent of the mass of coating materials applied, or (3) 8 percent of the mass of coating solids applied.
- For both new and existing sources, the emission limits based on the percent mass of coating applied and the percent of mass of coating solids applied represent pollution prevention options that have been demonstrated in actual practice by the industry.

FINAL RULE COSTS

- EPA estimates that the capital cost of controlling air toxic emissions from POWC operations would be approximately \$204 million for existing sources and \$18 million for new sources.
- EPA estimates that the total annualized compliance cost would be approximately \$64 million for existing sources and \$5 million for new sources. The annualized costs include the cost of monitoring, recordkeeping, and reporting.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

To download the final rule from EPA's website on the Internet, go to "Recent Actions" at the following address: <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg/ramain.html>.

- For further information about the final rule, contact Mr. Paul Almodovar of the EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, Emission Standards Division, Coatings and Consumer Products Group at (919) 541-0283, or by electronic mail at: almodovar.paul@epa.gov. Or visit the POWC website at <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/atw/powc/powcpg.html>.
- The EPA's Office of Air and Radiation's (OAR) homepage on the Internet contains a wide range of information on the air toxics program and many other air pollution programs and issues. The OAR home page address is: <http://www.epa.gov/oar>.