

# **FINAL RULE TO REDUCE TOXIC AIR POLLUTANTS FROM SURFACE COATING OF WOOD BUILDING PRODUCTS**

## **FACT SHEET**

### **TODAY'S ACTION**

- ! The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is issuing a final rule to reduce emissions of toxic air pollutants during application of surface coatings to wood building products. Toxic air pollutants, also called air toxics, are those pollutants known or suspected to cause cancer or other serious health and environmental effects.
- ! Wood building product surface coating is the process of applying a coating (usually protective or decorative) to products such as doors and windows, exterior siding, interior wall paneling, flooring, and trim.
- ! The final rule applies to facilities with commercial wood building product surface coating operations using more than 1,100 gallons of coatings per year. In addition, affected facilities must be a “major source” of air toxics or are part of a facility that is a “major source” of air toxics. A “major source” emits 10 tons per year or more of a single toxic air pollutant listed in the Clean Air Act or 25 tons per year or more of a combination of those pollutants.
- ! EPA estimates that there are approximately 215 facilities that will be affected by this rule.
- ! The final rule will require wood building product surface coating facilities that are subject to the rule to limit air toxic emissions from 5 types of coating lines:
  - exterior siding and primed door skins;
  - flooring; interior wall paneling, and tileboard;
  - other interior panels; and
  - doors, windows, finished door skins, and miscellaneous.
- ! Existing facilities will have up to 3 years from the date of publication of the final rule to comply with its requirements. EPA does not expect new sources to be built in the first 5 years following publication of the final rule.

### **BACKGROUND**

- ! Under the Clean Air Act, EPA is required to regulate emissions of 188 listed toxic air pollutants. The Act also requires EPA to identify industrial or “source” categories that emit one or more of

these pollutants. The Act further requires EPA to develop emission standards requiring stringent air pollution measures for each of the identified source categories.

- ! EPA's published list of industry groups to be regulated includes wood building products surface coating operations.
- ! Air toxic emissions from wood building product surface coating facilities occur from the coating application operation, which includes curing and/or drying of the coating, and from the evaporation of organic cleaning materials used to clean equipment and tools.
- ! Wood building product surface coating operations emit a number of toxic air pollutants including xylene, toluene, ethylene glycol monobutyl ether and other glycol ethers, ethyl benzene, methyl ethyl ketone, methyl isobutyl ketone, methanol, styrene, and formaldehyde. Health effects associated with these pollutants include eye, nose, throat, and skin irritation; nausea, vomiting, headache, and dizziness; and liver and kidney damage.

### **BENEFITS AND COST**

- ! The final rule will reduce total emissions of air toxics by 4,900 tons per year in the 5th year after the rule becomes effective . This is a 63 percent reduction from the 1997 baseline.
- ! Many of these air toxics are also volatile organic compounds. These compounds 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.
- ! EPA estimates that the total nationwide annualized cost in the 5th year after the final rule is promulgated would be approximately \$22.5 million.
- ! After assessing the impact of the final rule on small businesses, EPA determined that it will not significantly impact a substantial number of small businesses.

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

- ! To download the standards from EPA's website on the Internet, go to "Recent Actions" at the following address: [www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg/ramain.html](http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg/ramain.html).
- ! For general information about the final rule, contact Mr. Lynn Dail of EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, Emission Standards Division, Coatings and Consumer Products Group at (919) 541-2363, or by electronic mail at: [dail.lynn@epa.gov](mailto:dail.lynn@epa.gov). Or visit the wood building products (surface coating) website at <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/atw/wbldg/wbldgpg.html>.

- ! The EPA's Office of Air and Radiation (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's home page address is <http://www.epa.gov/oar/>.
  
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