FACT SHEET

FINAL AMENDMENTS TO THE AIR TOXICS STANDARDS FOR SECONDARY ALUMINUM PRODUCTION

ACTION

- On August 14, 2015, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finalized amendments to the air toxics emissions standards covering the Secondary Aluminum Production source category. Air toxics, also known as hazardous air pollutants (HAP) are known or suspected to cause cancer and other serious health problems.

- Secondary aluminum production facilities produce aluminum from scrap aluminum material and consists of the following operations: (1) preprocessing of scrap aluminum, including size reduction and removal of oils, coatings and other contaminants; (2) furnace operations, including melting, in-furnace refining, fluxing and tapping; (3) additional refining; and (4) cooling. The current secondary aluminum air toxics standards apply to approximately 161 facilities.

- In February 2012, EPA issued a proposal that presented the Agency's initial risk and technology review. In response to public comments and additional data, in November, 2014, EPA issued a supplemental proposal including a more extensive multipathway risk assessment and updated the "ample margin of safety" analysis.

- After taking into consideration public comments, EPA is promulgating the following amendments:
    - A requirement for facilities to account for unmeasured emissions during compliance testing by installing temporary hooding or assuming a capture efficiency of 80 percent.
    - An exemption from hood installation for existing and reconstructed round top furnaces and work practices for these furnaces.
    - An allowance of up to four furnace operating mode changes per 6-month period.
    - Compliance provisions for hydrogen fluoride.
    - An extension to the compliance deadlines ranging from 180 days to 2 years for various requirements.

Technology Review

- The Clean Air Act requires EPA to review and revise air toxics standards, as necessary, taking into account developments in practices, processes and control technologies since EPA issued the standards.

- During the technology review, EPA did not identify any new developments in practices, processes or control technologies that are applicable to this source category.

Residual Risk Assessment

- The Clean Air Act requires EPA to assess the risk remaining after application of the air toxic

standards. This is known as a residual risk assessment.

- The residual risk assessment includes the following analyses:
  - Estimates of individual source category risk.
  - Analysis of air toxics related risks across different social, demographic and economic groups living near the facilities.
  - Risk estimates based on the actual emissions reported as emitted.
  - Risk estimates based on emissions allowed by the current air toxics standard.
- In the 2012 proposal, EPA determined that risks were acceptable based on an estimated maximum individual cancer risk of less than 1-in-1 million due to inhalation.
- For the December 2014 supplemental proposal, EPA conducted a more refined multipathway analysis that confirms the potential risks from dioxins are acceptable (e.g., cancer risks due to multipathway exposures are less than 70-in-1 million) and that public health is protected with an ample margin of safety.
- In this final rulemaking, we again conclude that the risks due to HAP emissions from the source category are acceptable.

BACKGROUND

- The Clean Air Act requires the EPA to regulate HAP from large industrial facilities in two phases.
- The first phase is "technology-based," where the EPA develops standards for controlling the emissions of air toxics from sources in an industry group (or "source category"). These maximum achievable control technology (MACT) standards are based on emissions levels that are already being achieved by the controlled and low-emitting sources in an industry.
- Within 8 years of setting the MACT standards, the Clean Air Act directs the EPA to assess the remaining health risks from each source category to determine whether the MACT standards protect public health with an ample margin of safety, and protect against adverse environmental effects. This second phase is a "risk-based" approach called residual risk. Here, the EPA must determine whether more health-protective standards are necessary.
- Also, every 8 years after setting the MACT standards, the Clean Air Act requires that the EPA review and revise the MACT standards, if necessary, to account for improvements in air pollution controls and/or prevention.
- The previously-issued air toxic standards for these production processes are part of 96 air toxic standards that require 174 industry sectors to eliminate 1.7 million tons of 187 toxic air pollutants. Congress listed these toxic air pollutants in the Clean Air Act.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Interested parties can download the notice from the EPA's web site at the following address: http://www.epa.gov/ttn/atw/alum2nd/alum2pg.html.

- Today's final rule and other background information are also available either electronically at http://www.regulations.gov, the 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 in the EPA Headquarters Library, Room Number 3334 in the EPA WJC West Building, located at 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 proposed action can be accessed using Docket ID Number EPA-HQ-OAR-2010-0544.

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