

August 11, 2000

FACT SHEET

PROPOSED HAZARDOUS AIR POLLUTANT REGULATION FOR THE MISCELLANEOUS CELLULOSE PRODUCTS MANUFACTURING

TODAY'S ACTION

- ! The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing a regulation to reduce emissions of air toxics from facilities manufacturing miscellaneous cellulose products such as rayon, cellulosic sponges, cellulose food casings, cellophane, and cellulose ethers.
- ! Cellulose ethers are used as thickeners and binders in industrial, food and pharmaceutical products. Products that contain cellulose ethers include toothpaste, shampoo and the gel in disposable diapers. Cellulose ethers also are used as an additive to drilling mud.
- ! Air toxics, also called hazardous air pollutants, are those pollutants known or suspected of causing cancer or other serious health effects. Air toxics are released during the manufacturing of these cellulose products.
- ! Today's proposal covers all processes used in the manufacturing of these miscellaneous cellulose products. EPA also is including requirements for the storage of raw materials and the reduction of emissions from wastewater.
- ! The proposed rule will apply only to those miscellaneous cellulose manufacturers considered "major" sources of air toxics. A major source emits 10 or more tons a year of a single air toxic, or 25 tons a year a combination of toxics.
- ! The rule will affect approximately 14 miscellaneous cellulose manufacturing facilities, plus any similar facilities built in the future. The existing sources include two rayon manufacturers, four cellulosic sponge manufacturers, three food casing manufacturers, four cellulose ether manufacturers and one facility manufacturing cellophane.

include: chronic health disorders, such as effects on the central nervous and reproductive systems; and acute health disorders, such as irritation of eyes, throat and mucous membranes, and narcotic effects. Three of the air toxics that would be reduced have been classified as probable or possible human carcinogens.

- ! Today's proposal would reduce air toxic emissions from miscellaneous cellulose manufacturers by about 4,060 tons annually, a 20 percent reduction from current levels.

COST

- ! The total annualized cost of the proposed rule, when fully implemented in 2003, is estimated to be \$8.2 million for the entire industry. This reflects the cost of purchasing and installing emission control equipment, and the cost of monitoring, recordkeeping and reporting.

WHAT THE RULE REQUIRES

General

- < The proposed regulation contains emission standards that limit the amount of air toxics regulated miscellaneous cellulose manufacturing facilities may emit. It also sets work practice standards.
- < In most cases, the emission standards are more stringent for new facilities than they are for existing facilities.
- Ⓒ Emission testing and monitoring will be required to demonstrate compliance with the standard.

Emission Standards

- Ⓒ The proposed standards consist of emission limits in the form of a percent reduction requirement from initial air toxic usage for process vents and storage vessels. Facilities will be required to reduce the emissions by certain percentages, based on the type of product being produced. The reduction requirements range from 25 percent for cellulose food casings to 99 percent for cellulose ethers.

manufacturer will have the option of installing a nitrogen unloading and storage system.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- ! For more information about the proposal, contact William Schrock of EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919) 541-5032. The proposed rule is available from the World Wide Web at <http://www.epa.gov/tncaaa1/t3pfpr.html>.

- ! EPA's Office of Air and Radiation home page on the Internet contains a wide range of information on the air toxics program and many other air pollution programs and issues. The address is: <http://www.epa.gov/oar>.