

9-28-01

FACT SHEET

PROPOSED RULE TO REDUCE TOXIC AIR POLLUTANT EMISSIONS FROM FACILITIES THAT PRODUCE FRICTION MATERIALS

TODAY'S ACTION

- ! The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing a regulation to reduce emissions of toxic air pollutants, or air toxics, from facilities that manufacture friction materials. Air toxics are known or suspected to cause cancer or other serious health problems.
- ! Friction materials include brake and clutch linings, and are used in brake and clutch assemblies.
- ! Today's proposed action would reduce air toxics emitted by solvent mixers used in some friction materials manufacturing processes. The proposed rule also would reduce emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOCs).
- ! Facilities would be able to comply with the proposed rule's requirements by using a solvent recovery system that would capture and reclaim solvent used in the manufacturing process.
- ! EPA worked with major stakeholders, including representatives from the industry, in developing the proposal.
- ! EPA will accept comment on the proposal for 90 days after publication of the proposed rule in the *Federal Register*. After reviewing and carefully considering all comments, the Agency anticipates issuing the final rule in 2002.

BENEFITS AND COST

- ! EPA's proposed rule would reduce toxic air emissions from friction materials manufacturing facilities by about 340 tons per year when compared to 1994 emissions. The air toxics reduced include 3 organic compounds - n-hexane, toluene, and trichloroethylene. Exposure to these substances has been demonstrated to irritate lungs, skin, and mucus membranes, and cause problems with the central nervous system, liver, and kidneys.
- ! Emissions of VOCs would also be reduced by 340 tons when compared to 1994 levels. VOCs also contribute to the formation of ground-level ozone (smog) which can aggravate asthma and other respiratory conditions and damage crops and other plants.
- ! EPA estimates the total nationwide capital cost of compliance with the proposed rule at about

\$250,000. These costs include adding or upgrading solvent recovery systems and purchasing monitoring systems.

- ! EPA estimates that compliance with the proposed rule would result in a net savings to the industry of about \$570,000 per year. EPA expects that friction materials manufacturing facilities would reuse the recovered solvent which would reduce the amount of new solvent they would need to purchase. The savings from reduced solvent purchases would more than offset the costs of operating a solvent recovery system and complying with the monitoring, recordkeeping, and reporting requirements of the proposed rule.
- ! EPA estimates the proposed rule would not impact the price of friction materials. No friction materials manufacturing facilities are expected to close as a result of the proposed rule.

WHAT THE PROPOSED RULE REQUIRES

- ! The proposed rule would apply to each facility producing friction materials that is a major source of air toxic emissions. According to the Clean Air Act, a major source emits 10 tons a year or more of a single toxic air pollutant, or 25 tons or more of a combination of toxic air pollutants.
- ! All new and existing solvent mixers that use solvents that emit air toxics at major friction materials manufacturing facilities would be subject to the proposed rule.
- ! EPA's proposed rule would require owners/operators of solvent mixers to limit air toxic emissions from each mixer to no more than 15 percent of the amount of solvent containing air toxics loaded into the mixer during any 7-day block of time.
- ! EPA anticipates that four facilities nationwide would be subject to the proposed rule, and that only two facilities would need to upgrade or install solvent recovery systems to meet the proposed rule requirements.
- ! Initial and continuous compliance would be determined by weighing the solvent added to the mixer, and the solvent recovered by the solvent recovery system for each batch of material mixed.

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/>.

- ! For further information about the proposed rule, contact Mr. Kevin Cavender of EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919) 541-2364 or cavender.kevin@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-97-57, 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.
- ! 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-97-57). You may file electronic comments online at many Federal Depository Libraries. *Do not submit confidential business information by e-mail. See the Federal Register notice for more information on how to handle the submittal of confidential business information.*
- ! 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/>.