

November 26, 2002

PROPOSED RULE TO REDUCE TOXIC AIR EMISSIONS FROM SURFACE COATING OF METAL CANS

FACT SHEET

TODAY'S ACTION

- ! The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is issuing a proposed rule to reduce air toxic emissions from surface coating of metal cans. Toxic air pollutants, also called air toxics, are those pollutants known or suspected to cause cancer or other serious health effects.
- ! Metal can surface coating operations include any facilities that coat or print metal cans or ends (including decorative tins) or metal crowns or closures during any stage of the can manufacturing process. It includes the coating/printing of metal sheets for subsequent processing into cans or can parts. Coating materials include, but are not limited to, basecoats, decorative inks, end seal or end lining compounds, side seam stripes, inside sprays, interior lacquers, overvarnishes, and repair coatings.
- ! Coil coating for cans and can parts is included in the metal coil source category. Note that the coating/printing of pails and drums falls in the miscellaneous metal parts and products source category.
- ! EPA worked with State regulators, industry representatives, individual States, and associated groups and trade associations to develop this proposal.
- ! EPA will take public comment on the proposed rule for 60 days following publication in the Federal Register. The Agency expects to finalize the rule within 1 year after proposal.

BACKGROUND

- ! Under the Clean Air Act, EPA is required to regulate emissions of 188 listed toxic air pollutants. For listed categories of "major" sources (those that emit 10 tons per year or more of a listed pollutant or 25 tons per year or more of a combination of pollutants), the Clean Air Act requires EPA to develop standards that require the application of stringent air pollution reduction measures known as maximum achievable control technology.
- ! EPA's published list of industry groups to be regulated (known as source categories) includes metal can surface coating operations.

- ! Today's action is expected to affect 142 facilities with metal can surface coating operations. They comprise the following four subcategories known in the industry as:
 - < one- and two-piece draw and iron can body coating;
 - < sheetcoating;
 - < three-piece can assembly; and
 - < end lining.

- ! Air toxics are emitted from the surface coating application process, drying/curing operations, mixing and/or thinning operations, and cleaning operations during the surface coating of metal cans.

- ! Surface coating operations at metal can facilities emit a variety of air toxics that vary by facility but include primarily ethylene glycol butyl ether (EGBE), xylenes, glycol ethers (not including EGBE), methyl ethyl ketone, hexane, and methyl isobutyl ketone. The health effects associated with exposure to these HAP can include cancer, respiratory irritation, and damage to the nervous system.

BENEFITS AND COST

- ! Today's action would reduce air toxic emissions by 6,800 tons per year or about 71 percent from 1997 emission levels.

- ! Other benefits of this action include a decrease in emissions of other pollutants, such as volatile organic compounds. These compounds contribute to the formation of ground-level ozone, the primary constituent of smog. When inhaled at even very low levels, ground-level ozone can cause acute respiratory problems, aggravate asthma, reduce lung capacity, inflame lung tissue, and impair the body's immune system. Additional benefits include lower occupational exposure level for employees.

- ! EPA expects implementation of this proposed rule to result in an overall annualized national cost of \$56.2 million. This cost includes the implementation of pollution prevention activities, such as reformulation of coatings or the installation and operation of air pollution capture and control equipment. The cost effectiveness would average \$8,200/ton (\$8,800/Mg) for the overall industry.

- ! EPA does not expect producers to cease their current coating operations as a result of this proposed rule.

PROPOSED RULE REQUIREMENTS

- ! The proposed rule would affect any new, reconstructed, or existing metal can facility that is a “major” source of air toxics emissions. The affected source is the aggregate of all metal can surface coating operations at a given “major” source facility.
- ! Today’s proposal would set specific emission limits for all “major” sources of toxic air pollutants that use more than 5,700 liters (1,500 gallons) of coatings per year in the metal can manufacturing surface coating industry. The emission limits would apply to all processes associated with surface coating operations within each affected facility.
- ! The emission limits proposed today would give the industry choices and flexibility in how they reduce air toxic emissions. These options are:
 - (1) Reformulate their coatings to coatings emitting low- or no-HAP emissions.
 - (2) Upgrade or install new capture-and-control systems to reduce organic HAP emissions.
 - (3) A combination of (1) and (2) above.
- ! Facilities must also meet certain recordkeeping and reporting requirements, including semiannual compliance reports.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO COMMENT

- ! To download the standard from EPA's website on the Internet, go to “Recent Actions” at the following address: www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg/ramain.html.
- ! The notice and background information document are also available through the EPA’s Air and Radiation Docket and Information Center (Docket Number A-98-41) by calling (202)566-1742 or fax (202)566-1741 (a reasonable fee may be charged for copying).
- ! Written comments on the proposed rule should be submitted (in duplicate) to: Air and Radiation Docket and Information Center (6102), Attention Docket Number A-97-52, U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20460. Please also send a separate copy to Mr. Paul Almodovar, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, Coatings and Consumer Products Group, Emission Standards Division (C539-03), Research Triangle Park, North Carolina 27711; electronic mail address almodovar.paul@epa.gov.
- ! If you are submitting proprietary information, you must clearly distinguish it from other comments and clearly label it confidential. To ensure proprietary information is not released or inadvertently placed in the public docket, send such information directly to Mr. Paul Almodovar, c/o Document Control Officer (Room 740B), U.S. EPA, Research Triangle Park, NC 27711.

- ! For general information about the proposed standard, contact Mr. Paul Almodovar of EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, Coating and Consumer Products Group at (919) 541-0283 or by electronic mail at almodovar.paul@epa.gov. Or visit the metal can manufacturing (surface coating) rule website at http://www.epa.gov/ttn/uatw/coat/mcan/met_can.html.

- ! The EPA's Office of Air and Radiation's (OAR's) 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/>.