

## FACT SHEET

### PROPOSED AIR TOXICS RULE FOR METAL COIL COATING

#### TODAY'S ACTION

- ! The EPA is issuing a proposed air toxics rule for metal coil coating. Air toxics, also called hazardous air pollutants, are known, or suspected to, cause cancer and other serious health problems.
- ! Metal coil coating is the process of applying a coating (usually protective or decorative) to one or both sides of a continuous strip of sheet metal. Industries using coated metal include: transportation, building products, appliances, can manufacturing, and packaging. Other products using coated metal include coated tape rules, ventilation systems for walls and roofs, lighting fixtures, office filing cabinets, cookware, and sign stock.
- ! Metal coil coating has been identified as a major source of air toxic emissions, including methyl ethyl ketone, glycol ethers, xylenes (isomers and mixtures), toluene, and isophorone. These air toxics are emitted mostly during the coating application and curing operations. Health effects associated with these air toxics include eye, nose, throat, and skin irritation, and blood cell, heart, liver, and kidney damage.
- ! The EPA will provide a period of 60 days for the public to provide comments on the proposed rule following publication in the Federal Register. The Agency expects to finalize the rule within 1 year after proposal.

#### COSTS/BENEFITS

- ! Today's proposal is expected to reduce air toxics emissions from 2,484 tons per year to 1,118 tons per year, a 55-percent reduction over current levels.
- ! The proposal also is expected to reduce volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions, also by about 55 percent.
- ! The total nation-wide capital cost is estimated to be \$11.6 million. The total nationwide annual

## **WHAT THE PROPOSED RULE REQUIRES**

- ! Today's proposal would require that all "major" air toxics sources in the metal coil coating industry meet specific emission limits. A "major" source emits more than 10 tons per year of a single pollutant, or more than 25 tons of a combination of pollutants. The emissions limits would apply to the coating application and curing operations within each affected source.
  
- ! The emissions limits proposed today give industry a choice in how they reduce their air toxics. Industry may:
  - (1) Upgrade or instal new capture-and-control systems to reduce air toxics emissions by 98 percent; or
  
  - (2) Limit emissions to 0.24 pounds of air toxics per gallon of solids applied, on average, each month. Industry can comply with this limit either by using only materials that contain less than 0.24 pounds of toxics per gallon of solids, or by using a combination of add-on emission controls and coating formulation.
  
- ! Both new and existing major sources are required to meet one of these limits.
  
- ! Facilities also must meet certain recordkeeping and reporting requirements, including semiannual compliance reports.

## **BACKGROUND**

- ! The Clean Air Act requires EPA to regulate emissions of 188 listed toxic air pollutants.
  
- ! For categories of "major" sources (those that emit 10 tons/year or more of a listed pollutant or 25 tons/year or more of a combination of pollutants), EPA must develop standards that require the application of stringent air pollution reduction measures known as the "maximum achievable control technology."

**FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO COMMENT**

- ! To download the proposed rule from EPA's page on the World Wide Web, go to "Recent Actions" at the following address: *http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg*.
- ! The notice and background information document are also available through EPA's Air and Radiation Docket and Information Center (Docket Number A-97-47) by calling (202) 260-7548 or FAX (202) 260-4000 (a reasonable fee may be charged for copying).
- ! For general questions, contact Rhea Jones of the EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919) 541-2940 (or by electronic mail at: *jones.rhea@epa.gov*).
- ! Written comment on the proposed rule should be submitted (in duplicate if possible) to: Air and Radiation Docket and Information Center (6102), Attention Docket Number A-97-47, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20460. The EPA requests that a separate copy also be sent to Ms. Rhea Jones, Coatings and Consumer Products Group, Emission Standards Division (MD-13), U.S. EPA Mailroom, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina 27711; facsimile number (919) 541-5689; electronic mail address "*jones.rhea@epa.gov*".
- ! If you are submitting proprietary information, you must clearly distinguish it from other comments and clearly label it confidential. To ensure that proprietary information is not inadvertently placed in the public docket, send such information directly to Rhea Jones, c/o Document Control Officer (Room 740B), U.S. EPA, 411 W. Chapel Hill Street, Durham, NC 27701.