

## FACT SHEET

### FINAL RULE TO REDUCE HAZARDOUS AIR EMISSIONS FROM MISCELLANEOUS ORGANIC CHEMICAL MANUFACTURING FACILITIES

#### ACTION

- On August 25, 2003, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is issued a final rule to reduce hazardous air emissions from, miscellaneous organic chemical manufacturing facilities .
- Hazardous air pollutants, also known as air toxics, are those pollutants known, or suspected, to cause cancer and other serious health problems. The primary air toxics emitted during the production of organic chemicals are methanol, vinyl acetate, hexane, methylene chloride, hydrogen chloride and toluene.
- Today's final rule requires facilities to install excellent emissions controls known as "maximum achievable control technology" or MACT for process vents, storage tanks, equipment leaks, wastewater systems, and transfer operations at facilities covered by this rule.
- Today's rule also includes provisions that allow industry to comply through an alternative, pollution prevention-based standard. The alternative standard requires significant reductions in the amounts of toxic air pollutants used during the manufacturing process. The rule would allow facilities to focus on improving processes by reducing solvent use.
- The final rule will reduce air toxics emissions by 16,800 tons per year. The rule will also reduce volatile organic compound emissions, which contribute to the formation of ground-level ozone (smog).
- The annualized cost of this rule will be approximately \$75 million.

#### BACKGROUND

- The Clean Air Act requires EPA to identify industrial or "source" categories that emit one or more of the 188 toxic air pollutants listed in the Act.
- For major sources within each source category, the Act requires EPA to develop standards that restrict emissions to levels consistent with the lowest emitting plants. Major sources are those sources that emit 10 tons per year or more of a single air toxic or 25 tons per year or more of a combination of air toxics.
- The "Miscellaneous Organic Chemical Manufacturing" source category covers 22 categories on EPA's initial list of source categories. It includes source categories generally known as miscellaneous chemical production and polymers and resins. Chlorinated paraffin production, rubber chemical production, polyester resin production and alkyd resin production are examples of processes covered by this rule.

## **MORE INFORMATION**

- For further information about the proposal, contact Randy McDonald of EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919) 541-5402.
- 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>.