

FACT SHEET

National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Area Source Standards for Prepared Feeds Manufacturing; Amendments

ACTION

- On December 15, 2011 the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued direct final revisions to its January 2010 air toxics standards for prepared feeds manufacturing facilities that are area sources.
- The revisions would clarify:
 - the use of devices known as “cyclones” to reduce particle pollution from pelleting processes at large prepared feeds manufacturing facilities; EPA in its development of the area source rule did not intend for existing sources to replace existing equipment with a high efficiency cyclone, therefore EPA is removing a 95 percent control efficiency requirement and associated compliance demonstration, monitoring, reporting, and recordkeeping requirements for large, existing sources.
 - that the requirement to keep doors closed in areas where materials containing chromium and manganese are stored, used, or handled does not apply to areas where finished prepared feed product is stored in closed containers.
 - that any type of device may be used minimize the distance between the bulk loading spout and the truck or railcar being loaded.
- EPA is publishing these amendments as a direct final rule because the amendments are not controversial. EPA also is publishing a parallel proposal for these amendments in the event any adverse comments are received on the direct final rule.

HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS AND COSTS

- The revisions do not change the level of health protection provided by the January 2010 final rule.
- The revisions to the final rule will have no cost impact on facilities covered by the current rule.

BACKGROUND

- The Clean Air Act requires EPA to identify categories of industrial sources that emit one or more listed 188 toxic air pollutants. These industrial categories include both major and area sources.

- Area sources are those that do not emit or have the potential to emit more than 10 tons per year of a single toxic air pollutant or more than 25 tons per year of any combination of toxic air pollutants.
- The Clean Air Act requires EPA to identify the toxic air pollutants that pose a health threat in the largest number of urban areas and to regulate sufficient area source categories to ensure that the emissions of these “urban” air toxics are reduced. EPA implements these requirements through the Integrated Urban Air Toxics Strategy. Prepared feeds manufacturing facilities are included on the area source category list.
- For area sources within each source category, the Clean Air Act allows EPA to develop standards or requirements which provide for the use of generally available control technologies or management practices (GACT) rather than the maximum achievable control technology (MACT) required for major sources.
- The Clean Air Act also requires EPA to identify categories of sources that account for at least 90 percent of the emissions from seven specific hazardous air pollutants. Congress targeted these specific pollutants because of their persistence and tendency to bioaccumulate in the environment. EPA added prepared feeds manufacturing facilities that are area sources because these facilities may emit chromium compounds and manganese compounds. Standards for these source categories must be based on MACT.
- The final air toxics rules were developed as required by sections 112(c)(6) and 112(k) of the Clean Air Act.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- To download a copy of the final rule, go to EPA's Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg/>.
- For further information about the final rule, contact Ms. Jan King of EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919) 541-5665 or king.jan@epa.gov.