

EPA Finalizes Regulations for Surface Coating Industries

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) promulgated national emission standards for hazardous air pollutants for paint stripping and miscellaneous surface coating on January 9, 2008 (79 Federal Register 1737). This regulation is found in 40 CFR Part 63 Subpart HHHHHH. This rule will require all sources meeting the applicability requirements within this category to meet best management practices to reduce hazardous air pollutant emissions.

Who needs to comply with this rule?

Area sources of hazardous air pollutants (HAP) (those that have the potential to emit less than 10 tons per year of a single HAP or less than 25 tons per year of combined HAPs) that perform one of the following:

1. Perform paint stripping using methylene chloride for the removal of dried paint.
2. Perform spray application of coatings to motor vehicles and/or mobile equipment.
 - a. If you can demonstrate to EPA that you do not use any chromium, lead, manganese, nickel, or cadmium in your paints, you may not have to comply with the rule
3. Perform spray application of coatings containing chromium, lead, manganese, nickel, or cadmium to a plastic or metal substrate product.
 - a. Facility maintenance operations are excluded. Facility maintenance means surface coating performed as part of the routine repair or renovation of the tools, equipment, machinery, and structures that comprise the infrastructure of the affected facility and that are necessary for the facility to function in its intended capacity.

What operations are exempted from this rule?

1. Surface coating operations performed onsite at installations owned by the US Armed Forces, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, or the National Nuclear Security Administration.
2. Surface coating of military munitions or equipment directly and exclusively used to transport military munitions by or for the US Armed Forces.
3. Coating or stripping performed by individuals on personal vehicles, possessions, or for hobby or maintenance of their personal property.
 - a. This rule does not apply when these operations are performed by individuals for others without compensation.
 - b. If an individual coats more than two vehicles or pieces of mobile equipment per year, they must comply with the rule.
4. Coating or paint stripping that meets the definition of research and development activities.
5. Coating or paint stripping that meets the definition of quality control activities.
6. Sources already covered under another area source NESHAP.

When do I have to comply with this rule?

1. New sources (started up after 9/17/07 and not engaged in paint stripping or surface coating prior to this date)
 - a. Must comply upon startup or January 9, 2008, whichever is later.
2. Existing sources (started on or before 9/17/07)
 - a. Must comply by January 9, 2011.

What do I have to do to comply with this rule?

Paint Stripping Operations

1. Implement and maintain management practices to minimize evaporative loss emissions of methylene chloride.
2. If you utilize more than one ton of methylene chloride, you must develop and implement a minimization plan and keep records of annual usage.

Surface Coating Operations

1. Must utilize a high volume/low pressure gun, electrostatic gun, airless, air-assisted airless, or gun with similar transfer efficiency.
 - a. This does not apply to paint training centers or certain aerospace vehicle applications.
2. Must perform coating in a spray booth, prep station, or mobile enclosure.
 - a. All enclosures must utilize filters that are at least 98% efficient at capturing overspray. This does not apply to water wash booths as long as they are operated and maintained properly.
 - b. Coating complete motor vehicles or mobile equipment
 - i. Fully enclosed booth including a full roof and four walls or side curtains. The booth must be ventilated at negative pressure so that air is drawn into any openings in the walls or curtains.
 - ii. If fully enclosed with seals and automatic pressuring balance system, the booth must be maintained no higher than .05 inches of water gauge positive pressure.
 - c. Coating miscellaneous parts and products or vehicle subassemblies
 - i. Three sides (walls or curtains) and a roof. The booth must be ventilated so that air is drawn into the booth. There can be openings for conveyors or lines bringing parts into the booth.
3. Gun cleaning must be done so that atomized mist or spray of solvent is not created outside of the container that collects the used gun solvent. For example hand cleaning disassembled parts in a solvent, flushing solvent into the gun without atomizing the solvent, or using a fully enclosed cleaner
4. Painter Trainer & Certification
 - a. All painters must be trained and certified. This does not apply to students learning under a certified instructor.
 - b. Training program must include hands-on and classroom training.
 - c. Each painter at a new source must be certified by 7/7/08 or 180 days after the date of hiring.
 - d. Each painter at an existing source must be certified by 1/10/11 or within 180 days of being hired.
 - e. Each painter must recertify every five years.
 - f. Required training elements:
 - i. Gun set up & transfer efficiency;
 - ii. Paint viscosity, selecting the proper fluid tip or nozzle, spray pattern, air pressure and volume, and fluid delivery rate;
 - iii. Spray technique including lead and lag, gun distance and angle, banding and overlapping;
 - iv. Booth/filter maintenance; and
 - v. Environmental compliance with this rule

What notifications are required?

1. Initial notification must be submitted to your local air permitting authority and EPA Region VII.
 - a. New sources
 - i. 180 days after startup or by July 7, 2008, whichever is later.
 - b. Existing sources
 - i. By January 11, 2010
2. Compliance status notification – only needs to be sent in if you didn't certify you were in compliance with the rule when you sent in the initial notification.
 - a. New sources
 - i. Submit with the initial notification.
 - b. Existing sources
 - i. By March 11, 2011 – if it wasn't submitted with the initial notification.

What reports are required?

1. Annual Notification of Changes Report
 - a. Only if there have been changes to information sent in a notification or report or there have been deviations from the rule.
 - b. Submit March 1st each year, if applicable.

What records are required?

Records must be kept on-site for five years.

1. Painter certification documentation
2. Filter efficiency
3. Spray gun manufacturer information
4. Copies of notifications
5. Deviation records – if you didn't comply with the rule
6. Paint stripper usage
7. Assessment of the source compliance performed in support of any notifications or reports submitted
8. Methylene chloride minimization plan (if required)

If you have additional questions related to this regulation, contact Allison Zach at (402) 471-4103.