

FACT SHEET

FINAL AMENDMENTS TO THE AIR TOXICS STANDARDS FOR BRICK AND STRUCTURAL CLAY PRODUCTS MANUFACTURING AND CLAY CERAMICS MANUFACTURING

ACTION

- On September 24, 2015, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finalized national emission standards for hazardous air pollutants (NESHAP) for brick and structural clay products manufacturing and clay ceramics manufacturing.
- The brick and structural clay products manufacturing and the clay ceramics manufacturing source categories contain major sources of hydrogen fluoride (HF), hydrogen chloride (HCl), and hazardous metals. These hazardous air pollutants (HAP) are associated with a variety of acute and chronic health disorders, including cancer.
- The final Brick and Structural Clay Products rule will limit emissions that occur during the manufacture of face brick, structural brick, brick pavers, other brick products, clay pipe, roof tile, extruded floor and wall tile, and other extruded dimensional clay products.
 - These standards consist of:
 - Maximum achievable control technology (MACT) emission limits for non-mercury HAP metals (or particulate matter (PM) surrogate) and mercury (Hg).
 - Health-based emission limits for acid gases (HF, HCl and chlorine) for brick tunnel kilns.
 - Work practice standards for periodic kilns, dioxins/furans from tunnel kilns and periods of startup and shutdown for tunnel kilns.
 - Updated monitoring and compliance provisions.
- The final Clay Ceramics rule would limit emissions that occur during the production of pressed floor tile, pressed wall tile and other pressed tile and sanitary ware (e.g., sinks and toilets).
 - These standards consist of:
 - MACT emission limits for:
 - Hg, PM (surrogate for non-Hg HAP metals) and dioxins/furans for kilns.
 - Dioxins/furans for ceramic tile spray dryers and floor tile press dryers.
 - Hg and PM (surrogate for non-Hg HAP metals) for ceramic tile glaze lines.
 - PM (surrogate for non-Hg HAP metals) for sanitary ware glaze spray booths.
 - Health-based emission limits for acid gases (HF and HCl) for sanitary ware tunnel kilns and ceramic tile roller kilns.
 - Work practice standards for shuttle kilns and for periods of startup and shutdown.
 - Updated monitoring and compliance provisions.

- EPA estimates that the final rules will reduce nationwide air toxics emissions by approximately 375 tons per year.
- The rules also add flexibilities to help small businesses comply with these standards.

BACKGROUND

- The Clean Air Act of 1990 requires EPA to identify industrial or “source” categories that emit one or more of the listed HAP.
- The EPA previously determined the clay products manufacturing industry, which included brick and structural clay products, may reasonably be anticipated to emit HAP listed in section 112(b) of the Clean Air Act. As a result, clay products manufacturing was included in the initial list of HAP-emitting categories published in 1992.
- The EPA issued standards for Brick and Structural Clay Products and Clay Ceramics on May 16, 2003, and the rule became effective on that same date. The rule was subsequently challenged, and the D.C. Circuit Court vacated the standards on March 13, 2007. A proposed revised rule was then published December 18, 2014, and the final standards were issued on September 24, 2015.
- The brick and structural clay products production process consists of preparing the raw materials (primarily clay and shale), forming the processed materials into bricks and shapes, and drying and firing the bricks and shapes.
- The clay ceramics production process consists of processing clay, shale, and other additives, forming the processed materials into tile and sanitary ware shapes, and drying, glazing and firing the tile and sanitary ware shapes.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- To download a copy of the final action from the EPA website, go to:
<http://www.epa.gov/ttn/atw/brick/brickpg.html>.
- Today’s final rules and other background information are also available either electronically at <http://www.regulations.gov>, the EPA’s electronic public docket and comment system, or in hardcopy at the EPA Docket Center’s Public Reading Room.
 - The Public Reading Room is located in the EPA Headquarters, Room Number 3334 in the EPA WJC West Building, located at 1301 Constitution Ave., NW, Washington, DC. Hours of operation are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. eastern standard time, Monday through Friday, excluding federal holidays.
 - Visitors are required to show photographic identification, pass through a metal detector and sign the EPA visitor log. All visitor materials will be processed through an X-ray machine as well. Visitors will be provided a badge that must be visible at all times.
 - Materials for this action can be accessed using Docket ID EPA-HQ-OAR- 2013-0291/ EPA-HQ-OAR-2013-0290.

- For further information about the final rule, contact Sharon Nizich of the EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919) 541-2825 or nizich.sharon@epa.gov.