



Chrome Plating Receives Deferral From EPA



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EPA Finalizes Permanent Federal Air Permit Deferral for Chrome Plating

After several years of Government Relations working closely with EPA, the Agency on December 9, 2005 finalized a permanent exemption from the Title V federal operating permit requirements for non-major (*i.e.*, area) sources of chromium electroplaters (those that emit less than 10 tons of hexavalent chromium per year) that are subject to the national emission standards for hazardous air pollutants (NESHAPs). This standard is also referred to as the "Chrome MACT" rule.

According to EPA, compliance with the Title V permitting requirements is "impracticable, infeasible, or unnecessarily burdensome" for non-major sources of chrome electroplaters. This exemption will save facilities thousands of dollars in permitting expenses without reducing the environmental protections already in place to cover chromium emissions.

The permit exemption does not change any requirements for the control of emissions that apply to the facilities. In addition, States must continue to issue other types of air permits for these sources. Federal permits will, however, still be required for larger or major sources in the chrome electroplating source category.

EPA also exempted four other source categories including: dry cleaners, halogenated solvent degreasers, ethylene oxide sterilizers and secondary aluminum smelters.

New Proposals on EPA's SPCC Program

EPA has proposed amendments to the Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) rule. The SPCC program is designed to prevent spills of oil reaching waters of the United States by requiring facilities to develop appropriate SPCC plans. In two separate rulemakings published in the Federal Register on December

12, 2005, EPA proposed to extend the compliance deadlines for all facilities to October 31, 2007, and to streamline the regulatory requirements for qualified facilities and equipment used for storing oil and oil products. The comment period ends January 10, 2006 for the proposed extension of compliance dates and February 9, 2006 for the proposed streamline provisions.

EPA also issued a proposed SPCC guidance document on December 2, 2005 to clarify the requirements of the SPCC rule for the regulated community and to assist EPA's regional inspectors in reviewing facility's implementation of the SPCC rule. EPA will take comments on the guidance document until February 9, 2006, but will continue to accept comments and periodically update and revise the guidance document as necessary.

For more information on the proposed SPCC rules and the guidance document, visit EPA's Web site at www.epa.gov/oilspill. *P&SF*