



Small Business Environmental Assistance Program Fact Sheet

Regulatory Compliance Update: Paint Stripping with Methylene Chloride

Revised United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) air regulations for methylene chloride (MeCl) emissions in paint stripping operations are now in effect. **Businesses using MeCl in paint stripping operations must notify the US EPA and certify they have implemented the appropriate best management practices to minimize emissions of the chemical.** Paint stripping operations covered under this rule are those that use the hazardous air pollutant MeCl for the removal of dried paint (including, but not limited to, paint, enamel, varnish, shellac, powder coating, and lacquer) from wood, metal, plastic, and other substrates. It is the responsibility of businesses stripping paint to know if MeCl is contained in the strippers they use.

What Is The Compliance Date?

- New Sources: Upon startup
- Existing Sources: January 10, 2011

A business is considered a “new source” if it commenced construction after September 17, 2007, by installing paint stripping or surface coating equipment at a source not actively engaged in paint stripping and/or miscellaneous surface coating prior to September 17, 2007. Operations in existence before that time are “existing sources.” Reconstruction of paint stripping operations can trigger new source status.

For questions concerning this rule, how to minimize emissions, find substitutes for MeCl, or investigate other changes that may eliminate the need to use MeCl, call OTA for assistance (see the contact information on page 2).

What Is My Business Required To Do?

Every business that uses ANY AMOUNT of MeCl for paint stripping must submit an Initial Notification to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. This informs EPA that your business is subject to the standards and when your business will be in compliance. The form can be downloaded at: <http://www.epa.gov/collisionrepair/pdfs/initialnotification.pdf>

- New Sources must notify the EPA within 180 days after startup.
- Existing Sources must notify the EPA immediately (Initial notifications from existing sources were due on January 11, 2010).

What Best Management Practices Must Be Implemented?

All businesses² that use any amount of MeCl for paint stripping must implement management practices that minimize emissions of MeCl. This includes:

- Evaluating each application to identify potential alternative stripping methods (e.g., use non- or low-MeCl-containing strippers, mechanical stripping, blasting, etc.);
- Evaluating the need for paint stripping (e.g., is it possible to re-coat without stripping?);
- Maintaining records of annual usage of paint strippers containing MeCl;
- Reducing exposure of strippers to air to minimize evaporation losses (e.g., use air tight containers);

1. National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants [NESHAP] subpart HHHHHH - http://www.epa.gov/ttn/atw/area/paint_stripb.pdf

2. This regulation applies to “Area Sources”, which are sources that emit less than 10 tons annually of a single hazardous air pollutant or less than 25 tons annually of a combination of hazardous air pollutants. Major sources in Massachusetts with potential emissions that exceed the 10/25 tons limit must submit an application to MassDEP for a Title V Operating Permit, pursuant to 310 CMR 7—Appendix C.”

- Ensuring proper storage and disposal (store stripper in closed, air tight containers, and comply with DEP, EPA and OSHA regulations – contact OTA for more information if you are not clear on what this requires).
- Optimizing application conditions (e.g., keep temperature as low as possible for heated MeCl paint stripping application).

Businesses that use more than one ton (181 gallons) of MeCl per year must also develop and implement a written minimization plan, and post signs outlining the plan in the paint stripping area. (The one ton refers to the MeCl content of the stripper, not to the total weight of the stripper itself, including all the other constituents). Consult the Material Safety Data Sheet to identify the amount of MeCl contained in the paint stripper. If you do not have one, contact your supplier.

OTA can help you identify the appropriate management techniques for your facility. **The compliance date for existing sources with these requirements was January 10, 2011.** If you have not yet notified the US EPA that you have achieved compliance with the regulation, you are required to do so. The compliance form can be downloaded at: http://www.epa.gov/collisionrepair/pdfs/6h_compliance_ex.pdf.

Please note: *New Sources must submit a Notification of Compliance as part of their Initial Notification.*

An annual notification of changes report is required each calendar year if any information in the initial notification, notification of compliance status report, or in a previous annual report, has changed in the previous calendar year. You should also be aware of the OSHA regulations on the use of MeCl [29 CFR 1910.1052], which require additional testing to determine if a facility has exceeded the action level [a concentration of airborne MeCl of 12.5 parts per million (ppm) calculated as an eight (8)-hour time-weighted average (TWA).] (See <http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/methylenechloride/index.html>).

Web Sites

You can view these regulations by visiting the web sites listed below: <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/atw/area/fr09ja08.pdf> and read a fact sheet summarizing them at http://www.epa.gov/ttn/atw/area/paint_stripb.pdf.

Who We Are

The Clean Air Act requires each state to develop programs to help small businesses comply with air quality regulations. The Massachusetts Small Business Environmental Assistance Program (SBEAP) is run by the state Office of Technical Assistance and Technology (OTA). OTA provides to businesses on a confidential and no cost basis a host of non-regulatory services related to Clean Air Act compliance, assistance with environmental, health and safety regulations, on-site technical assistance in pollution prevention and toxic use reduction, energy efficiency, water and other resource conservation. OTA has made more than 4,300 site visits to Massachusetts facilities. OTA's team of engineers also can provide assistance over the telephone.

Contact Information

For more information about this rule, about how to reduce emissions, or about feasible alternatives, please contact Marina Gayl, at (617) 626-1077, or marina.gayl@state.ma.us.

For recordkeeping requirements, keep these records on file:

- Copies of Notifications submitted to EPA.
- MeCl content information such as MSDS.
- Annual usage of MeCl for paint stripping, and written MeCl minimization plan if annual usage is greater than one ton per year.
- Deviation and corrective action documentation. Documentation needs to be sufficient to verify annual usage of any paint strippers containing MeCl.

Please note: Records must be maintained in a form suitable and readily available for review.

