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Regulatory News



Hydrogen Sulfide Reportable under the Toxic Release Inventory Requirements

The (EPA) has modified the Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) reporting requirements to include hydrogen sulfide. Initial reporting for the 2012 calendar year will be required no later than July 1, 2013.

Hydrogen sulfide is most commonly obtained by its separation from sour gas, which is natural gas with a high content of hydrogen sulfide. It can also be produced by reacting hydrogen gas with molten elemental sulfur at about 450 °C. During this process, hydrocarbons can replace hydrogen.

"EPA is [taking an important step](#) to provide communities with additional information about toxic chemicals being released to the environment. The Agency is announcing that it is lifting the Administrative Stay of the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) reporting requirements for hydrogen sulfide. The Agency's review of hydrogen sulfide is part of its efforts to examine the scope of TRI chemical coverage and provide communities with more complete information on toxic chemical releases."

MADEP Proposes New Limits for Adhesive & Sealant Applications

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MADEP) is proposing to modify its air permitting regulations for the application of adhesives and sealants. These proposed regulations are intended to further reduce volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions.

"An adhesive is a material used to bond two surfaces together, and a sealant is a material with adhesive properties that is used primarily to fill, seal, waterproof or weatherproof gaps or joints between two surfaces. Adhesives and sealants are used in product manufacturing, packaging, construction, and installation of metal, wood, rubber, plastic, ceramics, or fiberglass materials, and are a significant source of VOC emissions. VOC emissions from this category are primarily from industrial and commercial operations and result from the evaporation of solvents during transfer, drying, surface preparation, and associated cleanup operations."

To reduce VOC emissions from adhesives and sealants, the [proposed adhesives and sealants regulation](#) imposes VOC content limits or other controls on a number of product categories and applications. This regulation is based on similar control measures that many California air quality districts have adopted and other New England states have proposed or adopted."

Ever Curious About What's New at OSHA?

The Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) maintains a "[What's New – Last 30 Days](#)" web page that provides links to OSHA's enforcement efforts as well as Federal Register updates. It's a great way to keep up with breaking information.

If you need additional help, contact Doug Stellato at (413) 572-3215 or dastellato@tighebond.com.



53 Southampton Road, Westfield, MA 01085
www.tighebond.com

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