

The EPA National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (HAP)

What's that you say? Remember way back in January of 2008 when the EPA released its new rules and regulations for HAP compliance for Paint Stripping and Surface Coatings? Well, that is finally coming to fruition, and if you haven't already applied with the EPA for compliance, your new due date is just in a few days, January 11th 2010 to file your initial notification with the EPA and or your state showing your compliance with the new HAP regulations. Any entity that is not currently compliant with the EPA regulation must be compliant by January 10th 2011.

Does This Apply to me? Well that's something you'll have to figure out. The main compliance that needs to be made is for paint stripping, where businesses or manufacturers are using in excess of one (1) Ton of Methylene Chloride (MeCl). But if you are a body shop, job shop, or a small manufacturer this compliance may not apply to you.

The other compliance is for Surface Coatings. Yes, that probably applies to you. Surface coatings compliance is for any facility that sprays HAP materials, solvent based coatings that are hazardous to our environment. This applies to most body shops, job shops, and industrial, or manufacturing plants. It specifies that shops that spray HAP materials must comply with the regulations that state that sprayers and operators must use High Volume Low Pressure (HVLP), Compliant air spray, Airless, or Air-Assisted Airless spray equipment to reduce the amount of HAP's produced by that facility. If you are a shop spraying with conventional air spray guns you will have to switch to any of the above listed "compliant" spray guns. If you are shop that sprays water borne materials, then good for you for doing your part to help reduce the amount of HAP that is produced by the United States.

Facilities and Industries that will have the potential for regulation may be, but are not limited to the Aerospace Equipment industry, Automobiles and Automobile Parts, Extruded Aluminum, Heavy Equipment, Job Shops, Large Trucks and Buses, Metal Pipe and Foundry, Rail Transportation, Recreational Vehicles and other Transportation Equipment, and Structural Steel.

Persons exempt from this EPA regulation are individuals that spray surface coatings for personal vehicles, or personal projects, or for other individuals without compensation. So if you do favors, for a friend don't worry about it. Also exempt from compliance are entities that spray waterborne materials, as well as entities that use Airless, or Air-Assisted Airless Spray Equipment, this does not mean that you don't have to file with the EPA, this just means that you do not have to prove equipment has the same or compliant transfer efficiency of HVLP equipment.

Now With that said. There are obvious advantages of using this new regulation for the good of you and your business. HVLP spray guns are not only good for the environment by reducing the amount of HAP being produced, but they also give you a significant material savings by flat out using less materials to spray. Compliant guns are very similar to the HVLP type, but operate at a higher pressure which makes the overall finish take less coats to get the same result as an HVLP, while they are not as efficient as an HVLP they do come with a less expensive initial cost, as well as less expensive replacement parts.

There are a lot of manufacturers that make HVLP, and Compliant spray guns and equipment.

Graco
Binks
DeVilbiss
Anest-Iwata
SATA Spray Equipment

All of the above manufacturers make HVLP, Compliant, or both spray guns that do comply with the New EPA HAP regulations.

Sincerely, your friends at

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