

Brief Summary
New EPA Regulations for Paint Stripping Operations
August 2008
40 CFR Part 63 Subpart HHHHHH

EPA has new requirements to reduce air pollution of Methylene Chloride (MeCl), which is found in many paint stripping formulations. Methylene Chloride poses health risks to anyone who breathes air that contains it. The new regulations require paint shops and refinishing businesses to do several things to prevent methylene chloride from getting into the air during paint stripping. The rule can be found at:

<http://www.epa.gov/ttn/atw/area/fr09ja08.pdf>

This is a short summary of things a shop must do before January 2011. New paint shops must do all these before beginning to strip paint. Although EPA has no requirements for hobbyists or private citizens, the following are also good practices to improve the air for anyone exposed to paint stripping fumes:

- Paint Stripping Operations—use methods to limit the fumes of MeCl.
- See if it's possible to re-coat without stripping before you start
- For all work, look for other ways to strip that don't use MeCl
- Try not to expose the strippers to air
- Use the best possible application conditions
- Store and dispose of equipment properly
- Make a plan for minimizing the use of MeCl if you use more than 2,000 pounds of MeCl per year

Send a notice that you are an owner or operator, to your local EPA office. (An example notice to use can be found at http://www.epa.gov/ttn/atw/area/paint_strip_example.doc)

You can obtain the phone number of your local EPA office contact at this link - http://www.epa.gov/ttn/atw/area/regional_contacts.pdf

Additionally, facilities must keep the following records on file:

- Copies of Notifications submitted to EPA
- Painter training certifications.
- Spray booth filter efficiency documentation.
- Spray gun transfer efficiency.
- MeCl content information, such as MSDS.
- Annual usage of MeCl for paint stripping and written MeCl minimization plan if annual usage is greater than 2,000 pounds per year.
- Documentation for events higher in MeCl and a plan to deal with them.

. For more details and assistance, please talk to your paint stripper providers or your EPA regional office. These web links to government contacts are a good place to start:

- http://www.epa.gov/ttn/atw/area/regional_contacts.pdf
- <http://www.smallbiz-enviroweb.org/contacts.aspx>