

Regulations Controlling Air Emissions

Paint Stripping



Overview

Methylene chloride (MeCl) –also called dichloromethane– is a volatile, colorless liquid with a chloroform-like odor that is used in various industrial processes, including paint stripping and cleaning. EPA lists MeCl as a possible cancer-causing agent in humans. The Clean Air Agency works with and regulates solvent-using businesses to reduce MeCl emissions. Businesses that are using MeCl (or products that contain MeCl) to strip paint need to take the steps below to comply with Agency regulations.

For all paint stripping businesses :

- **Implement management practices that minimize emissions of MeCl:**
 - Evaluate the need for paint stripping (e.g., is it possible to re-coat without stripping?).
 - Evaluate each application to identify potential alternative stripping methods.
 - Reduce exposure of strippers to air.
 - Optimize application conditions.
 - Practice proper storage and disposal.
- **Maintain records of annual usage of paint strippers containing MeCl.**

For paint stripping operations using less than one ton of MeCl annually:

- Must utilize work practices to minimize emissions of MeCl.
- Consult the MSDS sheet to identify the amount of MeCl contained in the paint stripper.
- Annual usage should not exceed 181 gallons of MeCl.
- Keep MeCl content information on file (such as MSDS).

For paint stripping operations using more than one ton of MeCl annually:

- Develop and implement a written MeCl minimization plan.
- Keep a written MeCl minimization plan on file.

Contact information

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References

NATIONAL EMISSION STANDARDS FOR HAZARDOUS AIR POLLUTANTS NESHAP (SUBPART HHHHHH)

FINAL RULE

www.epa.gov/ttn/atw/area/paint_stripb.pdf

Clean Air Agency Regulation I, Section 6.03

www.pscleanair.org/regulated/reg1/1-6.pdf