



HSIA

halogenated
solvents
industry
alliance, inc.

March 31, 2011

William Driscoll
Executive Director
Ozone Transport Commission
444 N. Capitol Street, NW
Suite 638
Washington, DC 20001

Re: Model Rule for Solvent Degreasing (August 27, 2010 Draft)

Dear Mr. Driscoll:

On behalf of the Halogenated Solvents Industry Alliance, Inc. (HSIA), I appreciated the opportunity to comment on the captioned proposal at the March 16 Ozone Transport Commission (OTC) meeting in Baltimore. HSIA represents manufacturers and users of chlorinated solvents, including trichloroethylene (TCE), perchloroethylene, and methylene chloride, and manufacturers of solvent cleaning equipment.

A number of equipment manufacturers and users have commented to the OTC about the hardship that would be caused by adoption of the model rule, and we support these comments. We urge the OTC to take an alternative approach. The most constructive alternative put forward at the meeting is to extend the existing approach of allowing only solvents with a vapor pressure of less than 1 millimeter of mercury (mmHg) to be used in vapor degreasing. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has previously concluded that vapor pressure is an effective means of control of ambient ozone precursors (*EPA, Control Techniques Guidelines: Industrial Cleaning Solvents (2006)*). The vapor pressure limit has resulted in significant reduction of volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions and thus is a proven method to achieve the objective of the model rule. The 25 g/l VOC limit in the proposed model rule is a draconian solution that is neither necessary nor appropriate to the attainment and maintenance of the national ambient air quality standard (NAAQS) for ozone.

1530 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 690 • Arlington, VA 22209
703-875-0684 • Fax 703-875-0675

We identify below a few of the reasons that adoption of a 25 g/l VOC limit would cause economic dislocation in the Northeastern manufacturing base, while resulting in negligible environmental benefit.

Vapor degreasing with chlorinated solvents is already adequately regulated. The national emissions standard for halogenated solvent cleaning, adopted by EPA in 1994 and updated in 2006 (*40 C.F.R. Part 63 Subpart T*), imposes strict controls on emissions of TCE, perchloroethylene, and methylene chloride from vapor degreasing operations. As the preamble to the OTC proposal properly notes, perchloroethylene and methylene chloride “are not considered VOCs and are not regulated under the OTC Solvent Degreaser Model Rule.” Previous correspondence from the OTC, recognizing the limitations on its authority in this context, is enclosed for your convenience. Thus, our concern is the impact of the model rule on customers’ ability to use TCE.

TCE is the solvent of choice for manufacturing a range of products to specification across the medical, electronics, aerospace, and many other industries. It is the best solution for many cleaning applications, and in some cases is the only solution. Aqueous cleaning, for example, is not an option where there is no tolerance for corrosion, rusting, and pitting of the substrate being cleaned. Alternative cleaning methods may leave residues, which are not acceptable in applications such as medical instruments and implants.

Forced substitution of TCE by aqueous or other solvent cleaners can also harm the environment. TCE is typically recycled as part of a controlled process, leaving only filters and sludge to be disposed of. Aqueous systems require much greater water usage and can produce large amounts of contaminated waste water, which when discharged can cause significant problems for publicly owned treatment works (POTWs).

Furthermore, a number of alternatives to TCE pose greater risks of flammability and/or toxicity. Acetone, which like perchloroethylene and methylene chloride is exempt from regulation as a photochemically reactive VOC, is highly flammable at room temperature; vapors from acetone in a degreasing machine can readily be ignited by sparks, which are commonly produced when metal parts being cleaned strike one another. Hexane and n-propyl bromide, also used as substitutes in certain operations, can result in significant risk of neurotoxicity. “UC Berkeley research scientist Michael Wilson studied auto mechanics disabled by a neurotoxic blend of hexane and acetone used as a brake cleaner. The product had been substituted for chlorinated solvents The next reformulation was no better:

William Driscoll
March 31, 2011
Page 3

Hexane was swapped out for bromopropane, known to cause sterility, Wilson said.”
(<http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/news/article/22772>,
reporting on UC Centers for Occupational and Environmental Health (COEH),
Green Chemistry, Cornerstone to a Sustainable California (2008), p. 16;
http://coeh.berkeley.edu/docs/news/green_chem_brief.pdf).

Airless degreasers have major operational disadvantages, as a number of equipment manufacturers have commented. Moreover, they are not an option in many applications. A number of companies in Pennsylvania clean the narrow tubes they manufacture in large (40-50 feet) custom-built equipment. No airless system is available that meets such requirements.

In sum, forced substitution of TCE in vapor degreasing will drive important manufacturing jobs, the backbone of many Northeastern communities, offshore. Against that kind of economic dislocation, what benefit would be gained? Preliminary work by Dr. William Carter, University of California Riverside, shows that TCE is in the lowest quartile for photochemical reactivity of all VOCs, generating only slightly more ozone per gram emitted than ethane, the reference compound. Thus, the air quality benefit of eliminating TCE in degreasing comes nowhere close, we submit, to justifying the impact on jobs, payrolls, and manufacturing productivity that adoption of the model rule would cause in those states.

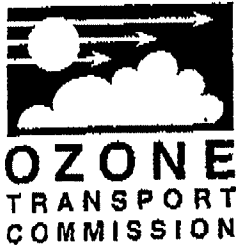
Thank you for the opportunity to provide our perspective.

Respectfully submitted,

Faye Graul
Executive Director

Enclosure

February 9, 2006



Mr. W. Caffey Norman
 Patton Boggs
 2500 M Street, NW
 Washington, D.C. 20037

Dear Mr. Norman:

As we discussed recently, and in response to your letter of October 13, 2005, this letter follows-up on issues associated with the inclusion of methylene chloride and perchloroethylene in certain provisions of the Ozone Transport Commission's (OTC) "Model Rule for Consumer Products."

As we discussed, OTC is currently in the process of re-evaluating potential consumer products control measures and I expect the Commission to recommend that changes to the model rule be developed at its upcoming meeting on February 22-23, 2006. The expectation is that OTC will primarily follow California's lead in this area, as we have in the past, and recommend to our states that they adopt the July 20, 2006 version of the CARB Consumer Products Rule to the extent that those restrictions are VOC related. We also expect to participate in the process to identify additional measures that California is presently evaluating, revising our model rule as appropriate as that information is developed.

The purpose of any OTC model rule in this area is to provide a consistent structure to our member states for their individual rule adoption processes to address the significant contribution of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) from consumer products to ground-level ozone formation in the Northeast and mid-Atlantic states. In any upcoming model rule development efforts, we will clarify that an OTC model addresses only those compounds that contribute to ground-level ozone (or, under our MANE-VU organization, Regional Haze or PM) formation. To the extent that the California rules upon which we rely may affect other compounds of concern to states, or the states themselves identify such items, OTC will not take a position on such compounds and will footnote the model appropriately indicating said compounds are not an OTC-related concern.

As I explained in my earlier letter, it is ultimately up to each state to promulgate rules it sees fit under the specific requirements and authorities of that state. Our Model has no force of law. States will continue to be free to subtract or add to the reporting and operational requirements based on their individual needs. Although we keep our efforts focused on our mission of achieving attainment of the 8-hour ozone standard, it is important to note that we do so in recognition of the multi-pollutant and programmatic context in which our states and their programs operate, and the multi-pollutant affects an ozone related decision may have on these other areas.

I trust, based on our discussion, that this adequately addresses your concern. Please do not hesitate to contact our office, however, if you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,

Christopher Recchia
 Executive Director

cc:
 OTC Members

- Connecticut
- Delaware
- District of Columbia
- Maine
- Maryland
- Massachusetts
- New Hampshire
- New Jersey
- New York
- Pennsylvania
- Rhode Island
- Vermont
- Virginia

Christopher Recchia
 Executive Director

444 N. Capitol St. NW
 Suite 638
 Washington, DC 20001
 (202) 508-3840
 FAX (202) 508-3841
 Email: ozone@otcair.org