

Compliance Paths

If your facility does surface coating, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) NESHAP 6H regulations apply. However, knowing what to do can be confusing. Use this guide to make sense of it.

Q:

Do you use Hazardous Air Pollutants (HAPs) in your spray coating or painting operations?



YES

If you use HAPs in your operations: You must comply with all NESHAP 6H regulations, including notifications, equipment management, and training. Effective May 9, 2023, certain notifications must be e-filed in the EPA's database.

Ready for a change?

Remove HAPs-containing coatings from your operations to be eligible for exemption. Many paint suppliers have HAPs-free product lines to help your facility stay compliant!

UNSURE

HAPs are chemicals in spray coating products including, Lead, Nickel, Cadmium, Chromium, Manganese, and Methylene Chloride that are regulated by the EPA's Clean Air Act.

If your paints have HAPs, you need to comply with regulations.

- Review manufacturers' statements to see if they contain HAPs.
- Look at the product's Safety Data Sheet (SDS).

NO

If you can prove that you don't use HAPs in your operations:

- Report your exemption status to the EPA.
- Maintain an on-site listing of spray coatings.

Not sure what to send?

- Need EPA confirmation of your exemption status? Mail a Petition for Exemption to the EPA.
- Don't need confirmation? Mail a Notification of Exemption to the EPA.



FAQS

Understanding 6H Compliance

Facilities conducting surface coating operations may be subject to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) National Emissions Standard Hazardous Air Pollutants Subpart HHHHHH (NESHAP 6H) Paint Stripping and Miscellaneous Surface Coating Regulations. Here are commonly asked questions about 6H.

What is NESHAP 6H?

NESHAP 6H regulations went into effect in 2011 with the goal of reducing air pollution by minimizing emissions from products containing Hazardous Air Pollutants (HAPs). Facilities using HAPs notify the EPA of their compliance with the rule and utilize equipment that minimized HAPs-related overspray releases. Facilities also follow paint-spray operations controls to further reduce emissions.

In response to NESHAP 6H regulations, many manufacturers removed HAPs from their product lines. As a result, facilities may have flexibility in choosing their NESHAP 6H compliance path.

The EPA amended NESHAP 6H in 2022, affecting notification, recordkeeping, and terminology and equipment requirements. Updated notification amendments went into effect in 2023, requiring certain notifications to now be e-filed.

How do you know if you're using HAPs?

- HAPs are chemical constituents such as **Lead, Nickel, Cadmium, Chromium, Manganese, and Methylene Chloride**.
- **Safety Data Sheets (SDSs)** may list if HAPs are present in a product.
- **Paint suppliers' statements** indicate the presence of HAPs in their product lines.

Remember: If HAPs are present in products your facility uses, notify the EPA and follow all regulatory requirements.

How do you comply with NESHAP 6H notifications and regulations?

Effective May 9, 2023, facilities must submit their Initial Notification of NESHAP 6H Compliance to the EPA electronically. If details about your facility and its process change, you'll e-file an Annual Notification of Changes report.

Facilities need to create a profile in the [EPA's Central Data Exchange System \(CDX\)](https://www.epa.gov/cdx). From there, the facility submits an electronic notification through the EPA's Compliance and Emissions Data Reporting Interface (CEDRI).

Note: State and local NESHAP 6H reporting requirements vary. For more information, visit epa.gov/ttn/atw/area/arearules.html and epa.gov/collisionrepair.

ADDITIONAL FACILITY RESPONSIBILITIES

IF Your Facility Uses HAPs Paints...



Training

- Maintain NESHAP 6H training records for all surface coating operation employees.
- Training must include a hands-on efficient spray technique demonstration.
- Complete initial training within the first 180 days of hire.
- Do refresher training every 5 years.



Paint Booth Filter Efficiency Records

With 2022 NESHAP 6H updates, the EPA approved 2 methods for filter efficiency testing. **Your paint booth filters must have a minimum 98% filter efficiency capture rate.** Paint booth filter efficiency testing records are typically available from the filter manufacturer. Verify the testing method listed on their report is one of the following methods and keep the records on-site.

- American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE)

OR

- EPA Method 319



Paint Equipment Compliance

- Surface coating operations must occur in a ventilated enclosure.
 - Full vehicles = 4 Walls/Full Side Curtains + Roof
 - Misc. Parts = 3 Walls/Full Side Curtains + Roof
- Use High Volume Low Pressure (HVLP) spray guns or equipment with equal transfer efficiencies. Clean them using non-atomizing methods.
- Paint cups may not be reused to complete a single surface coating operation.

What's new with 6H?

If your facility previously submitted an initial Notification of NESHAP 6H Compliance, and everything has stayed the same with your surface coating operations, including the coating products you're using, then you don't have to do anything right now. Facilities that need to update their compliance information will need to register on the EPA's Compliance and Emissions Data Reporting Interface (CEDRI), part of its Central Data Exchange (CDX). Go to <https://cdx.epa.gov/>.

The following facility changes require e-filing a Notification of Change with the EPA:

- Different Owner/Operator
- New Company Name
- Compliance Status
- Surface Coating Operations Changes

If your facility previously filed for NESHAP 6H Notification but now no longer uses HAPs in surface coating operations, mail a Notification of NESHAP 6H Exemption to the EPA. If you want confirmation from the EPA, submit a Petition for NESHAP 6H Exemption. (For more details, see the next section.)

Who can file for exemption?

Facilities that perform surface coating operations using HAPs-free coatings can file with the EPA for an exemption from NESHAP 6H regulations. The necessary forms are available in Vera Suite. File either:

- **Petition for NESHAP 6H Exemption:** Send via certified mail to your local EPA Area Director. Include an accompanying listing of all spray coating products in use at your facility. The EPA will send you a confirmation of your facility's exemption status.
- **Notification of NESHAP 6H Exemption:** Send via certified mail to your local EPA Area Director. Maintain on-site documentation of all spray coating products in use at your facility. With this option, you will not receive an exemption status confirmation from the EPA.

All facilities should maintain their listing of surface coatings on-site and audit regularly to ensure compliance in case of a regulatory audit. If applicable, maintain these files in your KPA Yellow Box.

What if a third-party does surface coating?

The employing facility's management must verify vendor compliance status with NESHAP 6H regulations and maintain on-site records. A sample contractor acknowledgment form is in Vera Suite.

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