

EPA's Proposed Rule to Regulate Methylene Chloride and NMP Use for Paint and Coating Removal must be Reevaluated to Address Small Business Concerns.

On April 17, 2017, the Office of Advocacy (Advocacy) filed a comment letter with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regarding its proposed rule entitled, "*Methylene Chloride and N-Methylpyrrolidone; Regulation of Certain uses Under TSCA Section 6(a)*." A complete copy of Advocacy's letter to EPA may be accessed at:

<http://www.sba.gov/advocacy/>.

- On January 19, 2017, EPA issued the proposed rule, which will:
 - Prohibit the manufacture (including import), processing, and distribution of methylene chloride and NMP use for paint and coating removal,
 - Prohibit the commercial and consumer use of methylene chloride and NMP for paint and coating removal, and
 - Impose a 55-gallon container restriction on the use of methylene chloride for non-prohibitive uses.

Under the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA), EPA recognized that the rule will have an impact on small businesses. Consequently, a SBREFA panel was convened in June 2016 to examine and consider alternatives to minimize the impacts on small businesses.

- Small businesses are concerned that the risk analyses for both chemicals do not support the agency's risk management decisions to prohibit the production and use of methylene chloride and NMP in paint and coating removal.
- Advocacy urges EPA to carefully address the concerns with the risk analyses for both chemicals and to provide regulatory flexibilities that are least restrictive and allow the safe use of the two chemicals.

For more information, visit Advocacy's website at <http://www.sba.gov/advocacy>, or contact Assistant Chief Counsel Tayyaba Waqar by email at twaqar@sba.gov or by phone at 202-205-6790.