

Grassroots Alert from the Hardwood Federation

EPA responds to Hardwood Industry concerns in Revised Boiler Standard

Acknowledging the need to reduce the exorbitant cost of proposed “Boiler MACT” standards proposed last year, the US EPA announced yesterday a significantly scaled back program. Biomass boilers particularly were singled out for less onerous requirements.

Specifics as the Hardwood Federation understands at this time: biomass boilers under 10 million btu will be alleviated from having to face costly engineering requirements altogether, required instead to do “tune ups” every two years. Larger biomass boilers will no longer be required to meet carbon monoxide rules, and have revised particulate matter limits which will require testing every three years. Larger boilers will also have to under go a one-time energy assessment. EPA believes this will avoid the need for total boiler replacements in industries such as hardwood lumber, cutting compliance costs down significantly. Biomass boilers are defined as those burning at least 15% wood or other biomass fuel.

Compliance date for the new rule was not announced but is expected to be within the first half of 2011.

The new proposal is complex and we are compiling more details. Meanwhile, please take time to review the new rule and provide HF your reading of the impact:

<http://www.epa.gov/airquality/combustion/docs/20110221areasourceboilers.pdf>

Thank you to all who contacted Members of Congress and the White House on this important issue.