

12/14/1981

VOC471214811

Category: 47 – Compliance Date Extension

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards
Research Triangle Park, North Carolina 27711

December 14, 1981

Mr. George O. Payne
Director, Governmental Affairs
Continental Can Company, U.S.A.
5745 East River Road
Chicago, Illinois 60631

Dear Mr. Payne:

This is in response to your request for a reiteration of the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) policy statement in the Federal Register approving extensions of compliance schedules for certain processes in can manufacturing plants. Though we agree that such compliance schedule extensions are appropriate and would be approved, I do not feel that the publication of a formal statement in the Federal Register is necessary.

The EPA policy concerning can manufacturing plants was outlined in a memorandum dated November 21, 1978 from Richard G. Rhoads, Director, Control Programs Development Division, entitled "RACT Options for Can Coating Operations." In this memorandum, we recognized that some plants may need compliance schedules extending to the 1982-85 time frame to meet the reasonably available control technology (RACT) values with low solvent technology. In such cases and where an expeditious, legally enforceable compliance program, consistent with the reasonable further progress requirements of the Act can be worked out, States were encouraged to support the development of low solvent technology in lieu of add-on controls. This continues to be Agency policy. Extensions of compliance schedules for sheet basecoat and end seal compound coating processes will be approved as State Implementation Plan (SIP) revisions where they will facilitate the conversion to low solvent technology. EPA will process these SIP revisions using the expedited SIP processing techniques described at 46 FR 447476 (September 4, 1981).

It is our understanding that States are aware of our policy in this regard. As you indicated in the discussions with my staff, the States of Texas and Missouri have already received our approval for such extensions and a similar approval has been proposed for Indiana. Where our opinion has been requested, we have recommended that these extensions be approved. While we continue to endorse the use of extended compliance schedules, we cannot

require the States to take such actions. By copy of this letter, I have notified our Regional Offices and State and local programs of this reiteration of policy.

Should you have any questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Walter C. Barber
Director
Office of Air Quality Planning
and Standards

cc: Bill Becker, STAPPA/ALAPCO
Director, Air & Hazardous Materials Division, Regions IX
Darryl Tyler, CPDD