



ILMA Submits Comments to Environmental Protection Agency on Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure Regulations

ALEXANDRIA, VA (March 5, 2009) — ILMA has submitted comments to the EPA , suggesting that the Agency allow the Dec. 5, 2008 amendments its Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) rule to become effective and extend the compliance deadline for these changes. “ILMA urges EPA — prior to April 4, 2009 — to announce a reasonable extension of the compliance deadline for owners and operators of regulated facilities to update their SPCC plans,” the letter says, and suggests, at minimum, the deadline should be moved to April 1, 2010.

When the Obama Administration took office, it ordered any rules issued by the Bush Administration which had not become effective to be withdrawn for further review. EPA’s SPCC amendments, which had been slated to become effective on March 4, 2009, were pulled back for this 60-day review. EPA also withdrew an extension of the compliance deadline for the SPCC amendments from July 1, 2009 to November 20, 2009. Most ILMA members’ facilities are subject to EPA’s SPCC rule.

ILMA urges an extension of the compliance deadlines from July 1, 2009, to at least April 1, 2010 for many reasons. Because Members must retain a registered professional engineer to review their revised SPCC plans, and then may need to spend additional amounts to implement a revised SPCC plan as well. ILMA acknowledges that although the EPA revisions may reduce compliance costs over a 10-year period; however making immediate changes will cost significant money for small businesses *now*. ILMA stressed the deadline should be extended “to help regulated entities cope better with the necessary compliance costs.”

The letter also noted that extending the deadline will also “give EPA the necessary time to revise the guidance document [SPCC Guidance for Regional Inspectors] and allow its use by the regulated community in revising their SPCC plans and implementing those changes.”

“ILMA is being proactive and trying to protect our members, especially our small businesses,” said ILMA Executive Director Celeste Powers. “In this economy, flexibility is very important, and small businesses can really appreciate any extra time they can get.”

The complete letter is available on the ILMA website at www.ilma.org.

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The Independent Lubricant Manufacturers Association (ILMA) was founded in 1948. ILMA's 300 members include independent lubricant companies that produce more than 25% of all lubricants and 80% or more of the metalworking fluids and other specialty industrial lubricants sold in the U.S., and key suppliers of raw materials and services to independent lubricant manufacturers.