

Board Adopts VOM Amendments for Metro East Aerospace Facilities

On July 9, 2026, the Board issued a final opinion and order adopting amendments to update its Part 219 air pollution rules (35 Ill. Adm. Code 219). The amendments concern volatile organic material (VOM) emissions from aerospace facilities in the Metro East counties of Madison, Monroe, and St. Clair.

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) initiated this rulemaking when it filed a proposal to amend Part 219. The Board proceeded to first notice without commenting on the substantive merits of IEPA's proposal. After holding two public hearings and receiving public comment, the Board proceeded to second notice. At its June 16, 2026 meeting, the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules issued a Certification of No Objection to the amendments.

Under the federal Clean Air Act, states must submit "reasonably available control technology" (RACT) standards for VOM emissions at aerospace manufacturing and rework operations in ozone nonattainment areas classified as moderate and above. In 2021, IEPA proposed, and the Board adopted, these RACT standards as amendments to Part 219 for aerospace facilities in the Metro East area. See Amendments to 35 Ill. Adm. Code 219, Organic Material Emission Standards for the Metro East Area, and 35 Ill. Adm. Code 211, Definitions and General Provisions, docket R21-18 (Mar. 4, 2021). However, the 2021 rulemaking inadvertently omitted a limited exemption for low volumes of primers, topcoats, and chemical milling maskants at aerospace facilities. The current rulemaking therefore adds this low-volume exemption, which makes Part 219 more consistent with federal guidelines for VOM emissions from aerospace coating operations.

The rulemaking is captioned Amendments to 35 Ill. Adm. Code 219, Organic Material Emissions Standards for the Metro East Area, docket R25-25. Here is a link to the Board's [final opinion and order](#), which contains the text of the adopted amendments. For more information, please contact Anupama Paruchuri at 217-786-0280 or anupama.paruchuri2@illinois.gov.