



Auto Body/Collision Repair

EPA Regulations for Autobody Refinishing Shops:

NESHAP 6H

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants HHHHHH (NESHAP 6H) reduce air pollution of metals such as chrome, lead, cadmium, manganese and nickel compounds and reduce methylene chloride fumes from auto body refinishing work. These compounds pose a health risk to anyone who breathes the air when these fumes are present. Many paints used in auto body and refinishing work contain these compounds. The NESHAP 6H regulations require auto body and refinishing businesses to do several things to prevent these metals from getting into the air during spray painting operations.

This document provides a summary of the requirements that new or existing auto body and refinishing businesses must follow before beginning to paint. Although EPA does not have requirements for hobbyists or private citizens, two things should be noted:

- The regulations strictly define what qualifies one as a hobbyist or private citizen as it relates to auto body painting.
- The following are good practices to improve air quality for anyone exposed to auto body paint overspray.

Requirements under NESHAP 6H include:

1. All spray painting must be carried out in a spray booth.
 - a. Whole cars must be painted in a spray booth with four walls, a roof, and a ventilation system.
 - b. Car parts must be painted in a booth with at least three walls or flaps, a roof, and a ventilation system that pulls air into the spray booth.
 - c. Spot repairs must be done in an enclosure which prevents any paint mist from getting out of the enclosure.
2. Exhaust booth filters must remove at least 98% of the particulates.
3. Painters must use spray guns and application techniques that reduce overspray, such as high-volume/low-pressure (HVLP) spray guns.
4. All painters must receive training.
 - a. Owners must maintain training records for each painter.
5. Spray gun cleaning cannot create any mist of cleaning solvent to the air. You may spray solvent through the gun into a container to clean the gun manually or use an enclosed gun cleaner.
6. All auto body shops must submit a notification form to EPA of spray-painting activities.
7. Facility maintenance activities are exempt from the rule.