

Leaded Aviation Gasoline/Clean Air Act: U.S. Environmental Agency Finalizes Endangerment Finding



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The United States Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”) published in the October 20th Federal Register a final action finding that lead air pollution may reasonably be anticipated to endanger the public health and welfare within the meaning of the Clean Air Act. See 88 Fed. Reg. 72372.

EPA also found that engine emissions of lead from certain aircraft cause or contribute to lead air pollution that may reasonably be anticipated to endanger public health and welfare under Section 231(a) of the Clean Air Act.

The classes of aircraft engines and aircraft addressed by the finding are denominated “covered aircraft engines” and as “covered aircraft.”

Covered aircraft engines in this context encompass aircraft engines that are capable of using leaded aviation gasoline. Further, covered aircraft includes all aircraft and ultralight vehicles equipped with covered engines.

EPA states that in determining that lead air pollutant may reasonably be anticipated to endanger the public health and welfare it relied on scientific evidence critically assessed in the 2013 Integrated Science Assessment for Lead and previous Air Quality Criteria Documents for lead. The Air Quality Criteria Documents were prepared to serve as the scientific foundation for periodic reviews of the Clean Air Act National Ambient Air Quality Standard for lead.

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