

**Asphalt Roofing Manufacturers Association**750 National Press Building  
529 14th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20045

Tel: 202.207.0917

Fax: 202.223.9741

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****CONTACTS:**John Ferraro  
(202) 207-1121  
jferraro@kellencompany.com

## EPA Approves Alternative Solvent for Method 5A Testing Used

(March 08, 2010) Washington, DC – The Asphalt Roofing Manufacturers Association (ARMA) was notified earlier this week that Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has approved the use of 1-bromopropane as an alternative to the 1,1,1-trichlorethane specified in Method 5A. The EPA says that this modification is acceptable for use at any asphalt processing or manufacturing facility covered by the following regulations: 40 CFR Part 60, Subpart UU; 40 CFR Part 63, Subpart LLLLL; and 40 CFR Part 60, Subpart AAAAAAA. This solvent replacement will reduce the use of a potential ozone depleting substance that has historically been required for roofing industry environmental compliance related testing.

ARMA's Health, Safety and Environment Committee and membership has been working with EPA for nearly two years to approve a substitute solvent for use when testing stack emissions. Roy Owens, Owens Corning's Roofing and Asphalt Advanced Environmental Lead, who spearheaded the ARMA efforts noted, "ARMA Members are committed to environmental stewardship of its products and were pleased to be able to work cooperatively with the US EPA on continuing to refine our processes and environmental testing to ensure the protection of the planet for future generations."

ARMA members are required by the EPA to use Method 5A testing to demonstrate compliance with particulate matter emissions limits required by the Clean Air Act. The Montreal Protocol and the Clean Air Act required the phasing out of production of 1,1,1-trichlorethane, a chlorinated solvent thought to contribute to the depletion of the earth's ozone layer, and the until recently only solvent approved by the EPA for Method 5A emissions testing.

EPA's official letter, titled Approval of Modifications to Method 5A for Various Reasons, can be found at the bottom of this page: <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/emc/approalt.html>

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### **About the Asphalt Roofing Manufacturers Association**

The Asphalt Roofing Manufacturers Association (ARMA) is the North American trade association representing the manufacturers and suppliers of bituminous-based residential and commercial fiberglass and organic asphalt shingle roofing products, roll roofing, built-up (BUR) roofing systems, and modified bitumen roofing systems.