

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL -7229-3]

Draft Action Plan for the Development of a Framework for Metals Assessment and Guidance for Characterizing and Ranking Metals (External Review Draft)**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).**ACTION:** Notice of a draft for public review and comment.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the availability of the External Review Draft of a document, Draft Action Plan for the Development of a Framework for Metals Assessment and Guidance for Characterizing and Ranking Metals, EPA/630/P-02/003A, prepared by a cross-agency workgroup under the auspices of the Science Policy Council. This External Review Draft of the Project Work Plan will be reviewed by the EPA's Science Advisory Board in an advisory capacity. The EPA also is announcing a public comment period for the draft document. EPA will consider the SAB's advice and public comment submissions in revising the Draft Action Plan. The plan may be modified and amended from time to time, as necessary, to reflect actual project requirements and progress. Information on the date and location of the SAB public review meeting (anticipated mid-summer 2002) will be published in a future **Federal Register** notice.

DATES: Comments may be submitted through the day of the SAB Advisory meeting, however in order for the Agency to consider comments in the development of the final charge to the SAB, comments should be received no later than July 2, 2002.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be mailed to the Technical Information Staff (8623D), NCEA-W, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20460, or delivered to the Technical Information Staff at 808 17th Street, NW., 5th Floor, Washington, DC 20006; telephone: 202-564-3261; facsimile: 202-565-0050. The EPA mail room does not accept courier deliveries. Electronic comments may be e-mailed to: metals.assessment@epa.gov.

The document is available primarily via the Risk Assessment Forum Publications Page at <http://www.epa.gov/ncea/raf/rafpub.htm>. A limited number of paper copies will be made available upon individual request to the Technical Information Staff. Please provide the document's title,

Draft Action Plan for the Development of a Framework for Metals Assessment and Guidance for Characterizing and Ranking Metals, EPA/630/P-02/EPA/630/P-02/003A, as well as your name and address to properly process your request.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. William P. Wood, Risk Assessment Forum, National Center for Environmental Assessment (8601-D), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, DC 20460; telephone: 202 564-3361; fax: 202 565-0062; e-mail: risk.forum@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Many EPA programs are faced with deciding whether and how to regulate toxic metals. These decisions range from setting regulatory standards for environmental releases, to establishing safe levels in different environmental media, to setting priorities for regulatory or voluntary efforts. A basic input to the decision-making process for most EPA programs is an assessment of the potential hazards and risks posed by the metal(s) to human health and the environment. Hazard and risk assessments of metals and metal compounds raise issues not generally encountered with organic chemicals. In recognition of the unique assessment issues raised by metals and the complexity of addressing these issues consistently across the Agency's various programs, the Agency's Science Policy Council tasked an Agency work group to devise an Action Plan. The goal of this Action Plan is to establish a process for developing guidance that will assure (1) a consistent application of scientific principles for assessing hazard and risk for metals, (2) state-of-the-science application of methods and data, (3) A transparent process (*i.e.* articulating assumptions and uncertainties), and (4) the flexibility to address program-specific issues. The Action Plan includes brief descriptions of the Agency's metals assessment activities, and identifies critical assessment issues that need to be addressed by the cross-agency guidance.

Dated: June 5, 2002.

George W. Alapas,

Acting Director, National Center for Environmental Assessment.

[FR Doc. 02-14632 Filed 6-10-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-U

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[OPP-2002-0107; FRL-6799-3]

Minor Changes to OPPTS Harmonized Test Guidelines, Series 830 Product Properties; Notice of Availability**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: EPA has established a unified library for test guidelines issued by the Office of Prevention, Pesticides and Toxic Substances (OPPTS) for use in testing chemical substances to develop data for submission to EPA under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA), or the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). The Agency is announcing minor changes to the Series 830—Product Properties Test Guidelines of these OPPTS harmonized test guidelines. The availability of final guidelines in this series was announced in the **Federal Register** on August 28, 1996 (61 FR 44308) (FRL-5390-7) and minor editorial revisions were announced in the **Federal Register** on March 18, 1998 (63 FR 13254) (FRL-5761-6). The Agency periodically announces in the **Federal Register** the availability of new and changed test guidelines.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: *For general information contact:*

TSCA information contact: TSCA Hotline at TAIS/7408, Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20460; telephone number: (202) 554-1404; e-mail address: TSCA-Hotline@epa.gov.

FIFRA information contact: Communications Services Branch, Field and External Affairs Division, Office of Pesticide Programs (7506C), Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20460; telephone number: (703) 305-5017; fax number: (703) 305-5558.

For technical information contact: Harold Podall, Office of Pesticide Programs, Registration Division (7505C), Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20460; telephone number: (703) 308-9373; e-mail address: podall.harold@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**I. Does this Action Apply to Me?**

This action is directed to the public in general. Although this action may be of particular interest to those persons who are or may be required to conduct

testing of chemical substances under TSCA, FFDCA, or FIFRA, the Agency has not attempted to describe all the specific entities that may be affected by this action. If you have any questions regarding the applicability of this action to a particular entity, consult the technical person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

II. How Can I Get Additional Information, Including Copies of this Document or Other Related Documents?

You may obtain electronic copies of this document, and certain other related documents that might be available electronically, from the EPA Internet Home Page at <http://www.epa.gov/>. To access this document, on the Home Page select "Laws and Regulations," "Regulations and Proposed Rules," and then look up the entry for this document under the "Federal Register—Environmental Documents." You can also go directly to the **Federal Register** listings at <http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/>. You may also obtain electronic copies of the OPPTS harmonized test guidelines from the EPA Internet Home Page at <http://www.epa.gov/opptsfrs/home/guidelin.htm>.

III. What Action is EPA Taking?

EPA is announcing minor changes to the following Series 830 OPPTS harmonized test guidelines. These changes are minor or editorial in nature and do not amend the existing requirements under FIFRA or the TSCA section 4 test rules. Explicit test requirements for registration are set out in 40 CFR parts 158 and 796 and the test guidelines contain standards for and examples of acceptable testing.

1. *OPPTS 830.6317 Storage stability*. Paragraphs (b)(2)(ii) and (b)(2)(iii) addressing frequency at which chemical analysis for the concentration(s) of the active ingredient(s) is conducted over the 1 year test duration have been changed to include an analysis at the 9-month point. This change will enable better definition of the slope of the degradation curve and permit improved extrapolation of the degradation curve past the 12-month point. Additionally, the change provides guidance for frequency of testing for storage stability studies continued beyond 1 year. The final guideline was reviewed by the FIFRA Scientific Advisory Panel (SAP) at its September 27, 1995 meeting and the revised guideline contains no new scientific issues that the Agency believes warrant review by the SAP.

2. *OPPTS 830.7300 Density/relative density/bulk density*. Paragraph (c), Test procedures, has been changed to correct a typographical error in a citation by

replacing the words "ASTM D-727" with "ASTM D-729." This is a minor editorial change.

IV. Are there Any Applicable Voluntary Consensus Standards that EPA Should Consider?

This notice of availability does not involve a proposed regulatory action that would require the Agency to consider voluntary consensus standards pursuant to section 12(d) of the National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act of 1995 (NTTAA), Public Law 104-113, section 12(d) (15 U.S.C. 272 note). Section 12(d) directs EPA to use voluntary consensus standards in its regulatory activities unless to do so would be inconsistent with applicable law or otherwise impractical. Voluntary consensus standards are technical standards (e.g., materials specifications, test methods, sampling procedures, and business practices) that are developed or adopted by voluntary consensus standards bodies. The NTTAA requires EPA to provide an explanation to Congress, through Office of Management and Budget (OMB), when the Agency decides not to use available and applicable voluntary consensus standards when the NTTAA directs the Agency to do so.

List of Subjects

Environmental protection, Chemical testing, Test guideline.

Dated: May 30, 2002.

Stephen L. Johnson,

Assistant Administrator for Prevention, Pesticides and Toxic Substances.

[FR Doc. 02-14637 Filed 6-10-02; 8:45 am]

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Notice of Public Information Collection(s) Being Reviewed by the Federal Communications Commission for Extension Under Delegated Authority, Comments Requested

June 5, 2002.

SUMMARY: The Federal Communications Commission, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork burden invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on the following information collection(s), as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13. An agency may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid control number. No person shall be subject to

any penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) that does not display a valid control number. Comments are requested concerning (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Commission, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the Commission's burden estimate; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on the respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

DATES: Persons wishing to comment on this information collection should submit comments August 12, 2002. If you anticipate that you will be submitting comments, but find it difficult to do so within the period of time allowed by this notice, you should advise the contact listed below as soon as possible.

ADDRESSES: Direct all comments to Judith Boley Herman, Federal Communications Commission, 445 12th Street, SW, Room 1-C804, Washington, DC 20554 or via the internet to jboley@fcc.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For additional information or copies of the information collections contact Judith Boley Herman at 202-418-0214 or via the internet at jboley@fcc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

OMB Control No.: 3060-0175.

Title: Section 73.1250, Broadcasting Emergency Information.

Form No.: N/A.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Respondents: Business or other for profit.

Number of Respondents: 50.

Estimated Time Per Response: 1 hour.

Total Annual Burden: 50 hours.

Annual Reporting and Recordkeeping Cost Burden: N/A.

Frequency of Response: On occasion reporting requirement.

Needs and Uses: Emergency situations in which the broadcasting of information is considered as furthering the safety of life and property include, but are not limited to, tornadoes, hurricanes, floods, tidal waves, earthquakes, and school closings. Section 73.1250(e) requires that immediately upon cessation of an emergency during which broadcast facilities were used for the transmission of point-to-point messages or when daytime facilities were used during