used if approved by the Manager, Engine Certification Office. The request should be forwarded through an appropriate FAA Principal Maintenance Inspector, who may add comments and then send it to the Manager, Engine Certification Office.

Note: Information concerning the existence of approved alternative methods of compliance with this airworthiness directive, if any, may be obtained from the Engine Certification Office.

(c) Special flight permits may be issued in accordance with sections 21.197 and 21.199 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR 21.197 and 21.199) to operate the aircraft to a location where the requirements of this AD can be accomplished.

Issued in Burlington, Massachusetts, on March 29, 1996.

Jay J. Pardee,

Manager, Engine and Propeller Directorate, Aircraft Certification Service.

[FR Doc. 96–9231 Filed 4–12–96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–13–U

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Food and Drug Administration

21 CFR Chapter I

[Docket No. 96N–0094]

Uniform Compliance Date for Food Labeling Regulations

AGENCY: Food and Drug Administration, HHS.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is proposing to establish January 1, 1998, as its new uniform compliance date for all food labeling regulations that are issued after the publication of a final rule based on this proposal and before January 1, 1997. FDA periodically has announced uniform compliance dates for new food labeling requirements to minimize the economic impact of label changes. In 1992, FDA suspended this practice pending the issuance of regulations implementing the Nutrition Labeling and Education Act of 1990 (the 1990 amendments). With the adoption and implementation of those regulations, FDA is proposing to establish a new uniform compliance date.

DATES: Written comments by July 1, 1996. FDA is proposing that January 1, 1998, be the new uniform compliance date for food labeling regulations published after the publication of a final rule based on this proposal and before January 1, 1997, except as otherwise provided in individual regulations.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Gerad L. McCowin, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (HFS–150), Food and Drug Administration, 200 C St. SW., Washington, DC 20204, 202–205–4561.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: FDA periodically issues regulations requiring changes in the labeling of packaged food. If these labeling changes were effective on separate dates, the cumulative economic impact on the food industry of frequent changes would be substantial. Therefore, the agency periodically has announced uniform compliance dates for new food labeling requirements (see, e.g., the Federal Register of October 19, 1984 (49 FR 41019)). Use of a uniform compliance date provides for an orderly and economical industry adjustment to new labeling requirements by allowing sufficient lead time to plan for the use of existing label inventories and the development of new labeling materials. This policy serves consumers' interests as well because the increased cost of multiple short-term label revisions that would otherwise occur would likely be passed on to consumers in the form of higher food prices.

The last uniform compliance date was January 1, 1993, which FDA established on January 4, 1990 (55 FR 276). The agency did not issue a new uniform compliance date in 1992 because of the pending issuance of a number of new final regulations implementing the 1990 amendments. The regulations implementing the 1990 amendments became effective May 8, 1994.

The agency has tentatively decided to establish a new uniform compliance date of January 1, 1998. If adopted, this date will apply to all FDA regulations requiring changes in food labels, except where special circumstances require a different compliance date. The agency has tentatively selected January 1, 1998, to ensure that manufacturers have adequate time to make any changes in food labeling that may be required by FDA final regulations published after the publication of a final rule based on this proposal and before January 1, 1997.

The agency generally encourages industry to comply with new labeling regulations as quickly as is feasible, however. Thus, when industry members voluntarily change their labels, it is appropriate that they incorporate any new requirements that have been published as final regulations up to that time.

The uniform compliance date that FDA adopts in response to this proposal will apply to final FDA food labeling regulations published after its adoption and before January 1, 1997. Moreover, FDA will consider adopting a consistent effective date in any rulemakings in which it publishes a final rule before it completes the present proceeding.

Previously, FDA has established the uniform compliance date by issuance of a final rule without providing an opportunity for comment. Because of the passage of time since the agency had last established a uniform compliance date, the agency believes it appropriate to establish the new uniform compliance date of January 1, 1998, through the issuance of this notice of proposed rulemaking and an opportunity for comment. FDA intends, however, to return to its former practice of establishing uniform compliance dates through issuance of a final rule without the opportunity for comment. Thus, for example, on or before December 31, 1996, FDA intends to issue a final rule establishing January 1, 2000, as the uniform compliance date for regulations published in the Federal Register between January 1, 1997, and December 31, 1998.

The agency has determined under 21 CFR 25.24(a)(11) that this action is of a type that does not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment. Therefore, neither an environmental assessment nor an environmental impact statement is required.

FDA has examined the impacts of the proposed rule under Executive Order 12866 and the Regulatory Flexibility Act (Pub. L. 96–354). Executive Order 12866 directs agencies to assess all costs and benefits of available regulatory alternatives and, when regulation is necessary, to select regulatory approaches that maximize net benefits (including potential economic, environmental, public health and safety, and other advantages; distributive impacts; and equity). The Regulatory Flexibility Act requires agencies to analyze regulatory options that would minimize any significant impact of a rule on small entities.

The agency estimates that this proposed rule would reduce costs by providing a uniform compliance date that will permit an orderly and economical industry adjustment to any new labeling requirements by allowing sufficient lead time to plan for the use of existing label inventories and the development of new labeling materials. Alternative approaches that FDA considered include setting a uniform compliance date such that firms have either more or less time to comply with labeling regulations. In general, providing a minimum compliance period of 2 years would be half as expensive as the proposed compliance

date, but it would delay implementation of labeling changes thus decreasing the value of any benefits. A minimum compliance period of 6 months, although providing earlier labeling changes that would increase the value of the benefits, would be twice as expensive as the proposed 1 year.

Therefore, the agency finds that the proposed rule is not a significant regulatory action as defined by the Executive Order. Similarly, the agency certifies that the proposed rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. Therefore, under the Regulatory Flexibility Act, no further analysis is required.

This proposed action is not intended to change existing requirements for compliance dates contained in final rules published before the publication of a final rule in this proceeding. Therefore, all final FDA regulations published in the Federal Register before April 15, 1996, that have effective dates other than January 1, 1998, will still go into effect on the date stated in the respective final rule.

Interested persons may, on or before July 1, 1996, submit to the Dockets Management Branch (address above) written comments regarding this proposal. Two copies of any comments are to be submitted, except that individuals may submit one copy. Comments are to be identified with the docket number found in brackets in the heading of this document. Received comments may be seen in the office above between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Dated: April 10, 1996.

William K. Hubbard,

Associate Commissioner for Policy Coordination.

[FR Doc. 96–9319 Filed 4–10–96; 5:08 pm]

BILLING CODE 4160–01–F

21 CFR Part 101

[Docket Nos. 95N–0282, 95N–0347, 95N–0245]

Food Labeling; Extension of Comment Periods

AGENCY: Food and Drug Administration, HHS.

ACTION: Proposed rules; extension of comment periods.

SUMMARY: The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is announcing that it is extending to June 10, 1996, the comment periods for certain proposed regulations regarding food labeling that appeared in the Federal Register of December 28, 1995. This action is being taken in response to several requests for brief extensions of the comment periods on these documents.

DATES: Comments by June 10, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments to the Dockets Management Branch (HFA–305), Food and Drug Administration, rm. 1–23, 12420 Parklawn Dr., Rockville, MD 20857. Two copies of any comments are to be submitted, except that individuals may submit one copy. Comments should be identified with the appropriate docket number found in brackets in the heading of this document. Received comments may be seen in the office above between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Camille Brewer, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (HFS–165), Food and Drug Administration, 200 C St. SW., Washington, DC 20204, 202–205–5966, or Susan Thompson (address above), 202–205–5587.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In the Federal Register of December 28, 1995, FDA published the following proposed rules:

(1) Food Labeling; Requirements for Nutrient Content Claims, Health Claims, and Statements of Nutritional Support for Dietary Supplements (Docket No. 95N–0282 (see 60 FR 67176));

(2) Food Labeling; Nutrient Content Claims: Definition for ''High Potency'' Claim for Dietary Supplements and Definition of ''Antioxidant'' for Use in Nutrient Content Claims for Dietary Supplements and Conventional Foods (Docket No. 95N–0347 (see 60 FR 67184)); and

(3) Food Labeling; Statement of Identity, Nutrition Labeling and Ingredient Labeling of Dietary Supplements (Docket No. 95N–0245 (see 60 FR 67194)).

Interested persons were given until March 13, 1996, to comment on the proposals. FDA received several requests for brief extensions of the comment periods to properly respond to the proposals. After careful consideration, FDA decided to extend the comment periods to April 11, 1996 (61 FR 11349, March 20, 1996). FDA placed a memorandum, dated March 13, 1996, that reflected that decision in each of the referenced dockets.

During the extended comment period, FDA has received additional requests for longer extensions of the comment periods. The dietary supplement industry has stated that it is conducting consumer research to determine how consumers perceive nutrition label terms and what label approaches are most usable by average consumers. Having carefully considered these requests, the agency has decided to grant a further extension of the comment period until June 10, 1996.

This extension will mean that it will be extremely difficult for the agency to publish final rules and the industry to comply with these final rules before the January 1, 1997 compliance date established in the Dietary Supplement Health and Education Act (the DSHEA). Given this fact, FDA is now considering exercising its enforcement discretion with respect to the DSHEA such that it will not enforce the provisions of the DSHEA until January 1, 1998, which coincides with the next uniform compliance date for food labeling regulations that FDA is proposing elsewhere in this issue of the Federal Register. FDA requests comments on this use of its enforcement discretion.

Dated: April 10, 1996.

William K. Hubbard,

Associate Commissioner for Policy Coordination.

[FR Doc. 96–9318 Filed 4–10–96; 5:08 pm]

BILLING CODE 4160–01–F

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Part 80

[FRL–5457–6]

Approval of Colorado's Petition to Relax the Federal Gasoline Reid Vapor Pressure Volatility Standard for 1996 and 1997

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: The Environmental Protection Agency (''EPA'' or the ''Agency'') is proposing a limited approval of the State of Colorado's petition to relax the Reid Vapor Pressure (RVP) standard that applies to gasoline introduced into commerce in the Denver-Boulder ozone nonattainment area from June 1 to September 15. It is proposed that the standard be relaxed from 7.8 pounds per square inches (psi) to 9.0 psi for the years 1996 and 1997. Pursuant to the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990, Federal RVP standards were promulgated by EPA on June 11, 1990 and revised on December 12, 1991. Colorado's petition is based on evidence that the Denver-Boulder area does not need the 7.8 psi standard to maintain ozone attainment in the near term and that the 7.8 psi standard would impose significant costs on industry and