

the principles set forth in this Executive Order.

Pursuant to the terms of this Executive Order, EPA has determined that this rule is not "significant" and is therefore not subject to OMB review.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Regulatory Flexibility Act (Pub. L. 96-354, 94 Stat. 1164, 5 U.S.C. 601-612), the Administrator has determined that regulations establishing new tolerances or raising tolerance levels or establishing exemptions from tolerance requirements do not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. A certification statement to this effect was published in the Federal Register of May 4, 1981 (46 FR 24950).

List of Subjects in 40 CFR Part 180

Environmental protection, Administrative practice and procedure, Agricultural commodities, Pesticides and pests, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

Dated: April 3, 1996.

Susan Lewis,

Acting Director, Registration Division, Office of Pesticide Programs.

Therefore, it is proposed that 40 CFR part 180 be amended as follows:

**PART 180—[AMENDED]**

1. The authority citation for part 180 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 21 U.S.C. 346a and 371.

2. In § 180.377, the table in paragraph (a) is amended by adding alphabetically the entry for artichoke to read as follows:

**§ 180.377 Diflubenzuron; tolerances for residues.**

(a) \* \* \*

Commodities	Parts per million
Artichoke .....	6.0
* * *	*

\* \* \* \* \*

[FR Doc. 96-9474 Filed 4-16-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-F

**40 CFR Part 180**

[OPP-300419; FRL-5355-7]

RIN 2070-AB18

**Pentaerythritol Stearates; Tolerance Exemption**

**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

**ACTION:** Proposed rule.

**SUMMARY:** This document proposes that residues of a mixture of chemicals known as pentaerythritol stearates (CAS Reg. No. 85116-93-4), which include pentaerythritol monostearate (CAS Reg. No. 78-23-9), pentaerythritol distearate (CAS Reg. No. 13081-97-5), pentaerythritol tristearate (CAS Reg. No. 28188-24-1), and pentaerythritol tetrastearate (CAS Reg. No. 115-83-3) be exempted from the requirement of a tolerance when used as an inert ingredient (emulsifier) at a concentration of no more than 25 ppm in pesticide formulations applied to growing crops and to raw agricultural commodities after harvest. This proposed regulation was requested by Wacker Silicones Corporation.

**DATES:** Comments, identified by the docket control number [OPP-300419], must be received on or before May 17, 1996.

**ADDRESSES:** By mail, submit written comments to: Public Response and Program Resources Branch, Field Operations Division (7506C), Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460. In person deliver comments to: Rm. 1128, Crystal Mall, Building #2, 1921 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA.

Comments and data may also be submitted electronically by sending electronic mail (e-mail) to: opp-docket@epamail.epa.gov. Electronic comments must be submitted as an ASCII file avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption. Comments and data will also be accepted on disks in WordPerfect in 5.1 file format or ASCII file format. All comments and data in electronic form must be identified by the docket number [OPP-300419]. No Confidential Business Information (CBI) should be submitted through e-mail. Electronic comments on this document may be filed online at many Federal Depository Libraries. Additional information on electronic submissions can be found in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** unit of this document.

Information submitted as a comment concerning this document may be

claimed confidential by marking any part or all of that information as CBI. Information so marked will not be disclosed except in accordance with procedures set forth in 40 CFR part 2. A copy of the comment that does not contain CBI must be submitted for inclusion in the public record. Information not marked confidential may be disclosed publicly by EPA without prior notice. All written comments will be available for public inspection in Rm. 1132 at the Virginia address given above from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** By mail: Amelia M. Acierto, Registration Support Branch, Registration Division (7505W), Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460. Office location, telephone number, and e-mail address: 2800 Crystal Drive, North Tower, Arlington, VA, (703) 308-8375; e-mail: acierto.amelia@epamail.epa.gov.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Wacker Silicones Corporation, 3301 Sutton Road, Adrian Michigan 49221-9397 submitted pesticide petition (PP) number 4E04378 to EPA requesting that the Administrator, pursuant to section 408(e) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, 21 U.S.C. 346a(e), propose to amend 40 CFR 180.1001(c) by establishing an exemption from the requirement of a tolerance for a mixture of chemicals known as pentaerythritol stearates (pentaerythritol monostearate (CAS Reg. No. 78-23-9), pentaerythritol distearate (CAS Reg. No. 13081-97-5), pentaerythritol tristearate (CAS Reg. No. 28188-24-1), and pentaerythritol tetrastearate (CAS Reg. No. 115-83-3) when used as an emulsifier in pesticide formulations applied to growing crops or to raw agricultural commodities after harvest. Inert ingredients are all ingredients that are not active ingredients as defined in 40 CFR 153.125, and include, but are not limited to, the following types of ingredients (except when they have a pesticidal efficacy of their own): solvents such as alcohols and hydrocarbons; surfactants such as polyoxyethylene polymers and fatty acids; carriers such as clay and diatomaceous earth; thickeners such as carrageenan and modified cellulose; wetting, spreading, and dispersing agents; propellants in aerosol dispensers; microencapsulating agents; and emulsifiers. The term "inert" is not intended to imply nontoxicity; the ingredient may or may not be chemically active.

The data submitted in the petition and other relevant material have been evaluated. As part of the EPA policy statement on inert ingredients published in the Federal Register of April 22, 1987 (52 FR 13305), the Agency established data requirements which will be used to evaluate the risks posed by the presence of an inert ingredient in a pesticide formulation. Exemptions from some or all of the requirements may be granted if it can be determined that the inert ingredient will present minimal or no risk. The Agency has decided that the data normally required to support the proposed tolerance exemption for these pentaerythritol stearates will not need to be submitted. The rationale for this decision is described below:

1. An acute rat oral toxicity study with an acute oral LD50 of >2000 mg/kg demonstrates that the mixture of pentaerythritol stearates is practically non-toxic to mammals.
2. The degradation products of pentaerythritol stearates (mono-, di-, tri-, and tetrastearates) include pentaerythritol and the naturally occurring fatty acid stearic acid, the residues of which have already been exempted from the requirement of a tolerance under 40 CFR 180.1001(c).
3. Human dietary exposure to pentaerythritol stearates resulting from the proposed use is expected to be negligible. These chemicals are also expected to have negligible environmental effects.
4. Pentaerythritol stearates are currently used in substances approved by the Food and Drug Administration for use as components of adhesives, paper and paperboard used in packaging, transporting or holding food under title 21 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) §§ 175.105, 176.170, and 176.210.

Based on the very low acute toxicity, the anticipated degradation products, the structure and physico-chemical properties of pentaerythritol stearates, the expected levels in the formulations and worst case dietary exposure assumptions, the Agency has determined that these inert ingredients will not pose a risk to human health or

the environment under the proposed conditions of use.

Based upon the above information, review of their use, and low environmental exposure, the Agency believes that, when used in accordance with good agricultural practice, these ingredients are useful and a tolerance is not necessary to protect the public health. Therefore, EPA proposes that the exemption from the requirement of a tolerance be established as set forth below.

Any person who has registered or submitted an application for registration of a pesticide, under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) as amended, which contains any of the ingredients listed herein, may request within 30 days after publication of this document in the Federal Register that this proposal be referred to an Advisory Committee in accordance with section 408(e) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act.

Interested persons are invited to submit written comments on the proposed regulation. Comments must bear a notation indicating the document control number [OPP-300419].

A record has been established for this rulemaking under docket number [OPP-300419] (including comments and data submitted electronically as described below). A public version of this record, including printed, paper versions of electronic comments, which does not include any information claimed as CBI, is available for inspection from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. The public record is located in Rm. 1132 of the Public Response and Program Resources Branch, Field Operations Division (7506C), Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, Crystal Mall #2, 1921 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA.

Electronic comments can be sent directly to EPA at:

opp-docket@epamail.epa.gov

Electronic comments must be submitted as an ASCII file avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption.

The official record for this rulemaking, as well as the public

version, as described above will be kept in paper form. Accordingly, EPA will transfer all comments received electronically into printed, paper form as they are received and will place the paper copies in the official rulemaking record which will also include all comments submitted directly in writing. The official rulemaking record is the paper record maintained at the address in ADDRESSES at the beginning of this document.

The Office of Management and Budget has exempted this proposed rule from the requirements of section 3 of Executive Order 12866.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Regulatory Flexibility Act (Pub. L. 96-354 Stat. 1164, 5 U.S.C. 601-612), the Administrator has determined that regulations establishing new tolerances or raising tolerance levels or establishing exemptions from tolerance requirements do not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. A certification statement to this effect was published in the Federal Register of May 4, 1981 (46 FR 24950).

List of Subjects in 40 CFR Part 180

Environmental protection, Administrative practice and procedure, Agricultural commodities, Pesticides and pests, Recording and recordkeeping requirements.

Dated: March 29, 1996.

Peter Caulkins,  
*Acting Director, Registration Division, Office of Pesticide Programs.*

Therefore, it is proposed that 40 CFR part 180 be amended as follows:

**PART 180—[AMENDED]**

1. The authority citation for part 180 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 21 U.S.C. 346a and 371.

2. Section 180.1001 is amended in paragraph (c) in the table therein by adding and alphabetically inserting the inert ingredient, to read as follows:

**§ 180.1001 Exemptions from the requirement of a tolerance.**

\* \* \* \* \*  
(c) \* \* \*

Inert ingredients	Limits	Uses
* * * * *	* *	
Pentaerythritol stearates mixture (CAS Reg. No. 85116-93-4) which include pentaerythritol monostearate (CAS Reg. No. 78-23-9), pentaerythritol distearate (CAS Reg. No. 13081-97-5), pentaerythritol tristearate (CAS Reg. No. 28188-24-1), and pentaerythritol tetrastearate (CAS Reg. No. 115-83-3)	25 ppm	Emulsifier

Inert ingredients	Limits	Uses
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\* \* \* \* \*

[FR Doc. 96-9476 Filed 4-16-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-F

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION****Coast Guard****46 CFR Parts 10, 12, and 13**

[CGD 96-021]

**Discussion of the Coast Guard's Course Approval Process****AGENCY:** Coast Guard, DOT.**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Coast Guard plans to hold a public meeting to solicit input from the maritime industry and from the general public concerning the course approval process currently used by the Coast Guard to evaluate maritime training offered in the United States.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held May 8, 1996, from 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. Written comments must be submitted by July 24, 1996.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the New Orleans Airport Hilton, 901 Airline Highway, Kenner, Louisiana, 70062.

Written comments may be mailed to the Executive Secretary, Marine Safety Council (G-LRA), U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters, 2100 Second Street SW., Washington, DC 20593-0001, or may be delivered to room 3406 at the same address between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. Comments will become part of this docket [CGD 96-021] and will be available for inspection or copying at room 3406, Coast Guard Headquarters, between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

A copy of the current course approval guidelines may be obtained by writing to Director, National Maritime Center (NMC-4B), 4200 Wilson Blvd, Suite 510, Arlington, VA 22203-1804, or by calling (703) 235-0014, between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. Requests may also be submitted by facsimile at (703) 235-1062.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Ms. Christine Meers, Chief, Marine Exam Administration Branch, National Maritime Center (NMC-4B), 4200 Wilson Blvd, Suite 510, Arlington, VA 22203-1804, telephone (703) 235-0014.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****Background and Discussion**

Federal Regulations 46 CFR Parts 10, 12 and 13 require or allow applicants for merchant marine licenses and documents to successfully complete approved courses, or in some cases to substitute coursework in lieu of seatime or examinations when acquiring a licenses. In order to ensure that mariners are properly trained in these courses, the Coast Guard reviews and certifies the courses and the institutions as meeting minimum requirements.

**Current Process:** Training institutions who want the Coast Guard to certify that their courses meet Federal standards submit their courses for approval to the Coast Guard via the nearest Regional Examination Center (REC). If the application package is complete in accordance with Navigation and Vessel Inspection Circular (NVIC) 5-95, it is forwarded to the NMC for review. If the course meets the minimum standards set forth in the regulations and NVIC 5-95, then certification is issued to the institution for that course.

This certification notifies marines that the course will help them to fulfill some

of the Federal requirements for acquiring a Coast Guard license and documentation. The certification also encourages training institutions to provide courses which meet the minimum standards for mariner licensing and documentation.

In order to improve the quality of the public service that we provide, we are holding this meeting to solicit the views and comments of the maritime training community, mariners, and the affected public. We intend to identify any perceived problems with our current system, and to discuss ways that we could revise our policies (e.g. NIV 5-95 or specific course guidelines). The meeting will be held as an open forum and we strongly encourage members of the maritime community and general public to actively participate and provide their insight and knowledge, so that we can continue to provide high-quality service to the public.

Attendance is open to the public. Members of the public are encouraged to make oral presentations during the meeting. Written material may be submitted before, during, or after the meeting. Persons unable to attend the public meeting are encouraged to submit written comments on or before July 24, 1996.

Those needing the assistance of sign language interpretation at the meeting should notify the person listed above under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** as soon as possible so that arrangements may be made to provide the necessary assistance.

Dated: April 10, 1996.

Norman W. Lemley,

*Director, National Maritime Center.*

[FR Doc. 96-9446 Filed 4-16-96; 8:45 am]

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