E. Safety Determination

1. *U.S. population*. Using the conservative exposure assumptions and the proposed RfD described above, the aggregate exposure to pymetrozine will utilize 3.78% of the RfD for the U.S. population. EPA generally has no concern for exposures below 100% of the RfD because the RfD represents the level at or below which daily aggregate exposure over a lifetime will not pose appreciable risks to human health. Therefore, Novartis concludes that there is a reasonable certainty that no harm will result from aggregate exposure to pymetrozine residues.

2. *Infants and children*. In assessing the potential for additional sensitivity of infants and children to residues of pymetrozine, data from developmental toxicity studies in the rat and rabbit and a two-generation reproduction study in the rat have been considered.

In a teratology study in rats, developmental toxicity anomalies and variations associated was observed only at maternally toxic doses. Similarly, in a rabbit teratology study, was observed only at maternally toxic doses. The NOELs in the rat and rabbit teratology studies were 30 and 10 mg/kg/day, respectively. In the two-generation reproduction study, there were no effects on reproductive parameters. Offspring body weights were slightly reduced and eye opening was slightly delayed at dose levels producing parental toxicity. The NOEL for parental and offspring toxicity was 20 ppm (approximately 1–4 mg/kg/day).

FFDCA section 408 provides that EPA may apply an additional safety factor for infants and children in the case of threshold effects to account for pre- and post-natal toxicity and the completeness of the database. Based on the current toxicological requirements, the database relative to pre- and post-natal effects for children is complete. Further, for pymetrozine, the NOEL of 0.57 from the chronic feeding study in dogs, which was used to calculate the RfD (0.0057 mg/kg/day), is already lower than the developmental NOELs (30 and 10 mg/kg/day) from the teratogenicity studies in rats and rabbits by a factor of more than tenfold. In the pymetrozine rat reproduction study, the mild nature of the effects observed (decreased body weight) at the systemic LOEL (10–40 mg/kg/day) and the fact that the effects were observed at a dose that is more than 10 times greater than the NOEL in the chronic dog study (0.57 mg/kg/day) suggest that there is no additional sensitivity for infants and children. Therefore, it is concluded that an additional uncertainty factor is not warranted to protect the health of infants and children and that an RfD of 0.0057 mg/kg/day based on the chronic dog study is appropriate for assessing aggregate risk to infants and children from pymetrozine.

Using the exposure assumptions described above, the percent of the RfD that will be utilized by aggregate exposure to residues of pymetrozine is 0.43% for nursing infants less than 1 year old, 1.49% for non-nursing infants, 3.44% for children 1–6 years old and 2.72% for children 7–12 years old. Therefore, based on the completeness and reliability of the toxicity database, Novartis concludes that there is a reasonable certainty that no harm will result to infants and children from aggregate exposure to pymetrozine residues.

F. International Tolerances

There are no Codex maximum levels established for residues of pymetrozine.

[FR Doc. 98–13447 Filed 5–19–98; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 6560–50–F

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[PF–804; FRL–5788–8]

Westvaco Corporation; Pesticide Tolerance Petition Filing

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the initial filing of a pesticide petition proposing the establishment of regulations for residues of a certain pesticide chemical in or on various food commodities.

DATES: Comments, identified by the docket control number PF–804, must be received on or before June 19, 1998.

ADDRESSES: By mail submit written comments to: Information and Records Integrity Branch, Public Information and Services Divison (7502C), Office of Pesticides Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460. In person bring comments to: Rm. 119, CM #2, 1921 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA.

Comments and data may also be submitted electronically by following the instructions under ''SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.'' No confidential business information should be submitted through e-mail.

Information submitted as a comment concerning this document may be claimed confidential by marking any part or all of that information as ''Confidential Business Information'' (CBI). CBI should not be submitted through e-mail. Information marked as CBI 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. 119 at the address given above, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bipin C. Gandhi, 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: Rm. 4-W53, Crystal Station ı1, 2800 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA 22202, (703) 308–8380; e-mail: gandhi.bipin@epamail.epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: EPA has received a pesticide petition as follows proposing the establishment and/or amendment of regulations for residues of certain pesticide chemical in or on various food commodities under section 408 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Comestic Act (FFDCA), 21 U.S.C. 346a. EPA has determined that this petition contains data or information regarding the elements set forth in section 408(d)(2); however, EPA has not fully evaluated the sufficiency of the submitted data at this time or whether the data supports granting of the petition. Additional data may be needed before EPA rules on the petition.

The official record for this notice of filing, as well as the public version, has been established for this notice of filing under docket control number [PF–804] (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 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. The official record is located at the address in ''ADDRESSES'' at the beginning of this document.

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. Comment and data will

also be accepted on disks in Wordperfect 5.1/6.1 file format or ASCII file format. All comments and data in electronic form must be identified by the docket control number (PF–804) and appropriate petition number. Electronic comments on this notice may be filed online at many Federal Depository Libraries.

List of Subjects

Environmental protection, Agricultural commodities, Food additives, Feed additives, Pesticides and pests, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

Dated: May 4, 1998.

Peter Caulkins,

Acting Director, Registration Division, Office of Pesticide Programs.

Summaries of Petitions

Petitioner summaries of the pesticide petitions are printed below as required by section 408(d)(3) of the FFDCA. The summaries of the petitions were prepared by the petitioners and represent the views of the petitioners. EPA is publishing the petition summaries verbatim without editing them in any way. The petition summary announces the availability of a description of the analytical methods available to EPA for the detection and measurement of the pesticide chemical residues or an explanation of why no such method is needed.

1. Westvaco Corporation

PP 6E4749

EPA has received a pesticide petition (PP 6E4749) from Westvaco Corporation, Chemical Division, 3950 Faber Place Drive, North Charleston, SC 29405, proposing pursuant to section 408(d) of the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, 21 U.S.C. 346a(d), to amend 40 CFR part 180 to establish an exemption from the requirement of a tolerance for residues of acrylic acid, styrene, alpha-methyl styrene copolymer ammonium salt (CAS Reg. No. 89678-90-0) when used as an inert ingredient (encapsulating agent, dispensers, resins, fibers and beads) in pesticide formulations applied to growing crops or raw agricultural commodities after harvest, under 40 CFR 180.1001(c) and applied to animals under 40 CFR 180.1001(e). EPA has determined that the petition contains data or information regarding the elements set forth in section 408(d)(2) of the FFDCA; however, EPA has not fully evaluated the sufficiency of the submitted data at this time or whether the data supports granting of the petition. Additional data may be needed before EPA rules on the petition.

A. Toxicity Data

As part of the EPA policy statement on inert ingredients published in the **Federal Register** of April 22, 1987 (52 FR 13305) (FRL–3190-1), the Agency set forth a list of studies which would generally be used to evaluate the risks posed by the presence of an inert ingredient in a pesticide formulation. However, where it can be determined without the data that the inert ingredient will present minimal or no risk, the Agency generally does not require some or all of the listed studies to rule on the proposed tolerance or exemption from the requirement of a tolerance for an inert ingredient. Westvaco believes that the data and information described below is adequate to ascertain the toxicology and characterize the risk associated with the use of acrylic acid, styrene, alpha-methyl styrene copolymer ammonium salt (CAS Reg. No. 89678-90-0) as an inert ingredient in pesticide formulations applied to growing crops and raw agricultural commodities after harvest.

In the case of certain chemical substances that are defined as ''polymers'' the EPA has established a set of criteria which identify categories of polymers that present low risk. These criteria (described in 40 CFR 723.250) identify polymers that are relatively unreactive and stable compared to other chemical substances as well as polymers that typically are not readily absorbed. These properties generally limit a polymer's ability to cause adverse effects. In addition, these criteria exclude polymers about which little is known. The EPA believes that polymers meeting the criteria noted below will present minimal or no risk.

Acrylic acid, styrene, alpha-methyl styrene copolymer ammonium salt (CAS Reg. No. 89678-90-0) conforms to the definition of polymer given in 40 CFR 723.250(b) and meets the following criteria that are used to identify low risk polymers.

1. Acrylic acid, styrene, alpha-methyl styrene copolymer ammonium salt is not a cationic polymer, nor is it reasonably anticipated to become a cationic polymer in a natural aquatic environment.

2. Acrylic acid, styrene, alpha-methyl styrene copolymer ammonium salt contains as an integral part of its composition the atomic elements carbon and hydrogen.

3. Acrylic acid, styrene, alpha-methyl styrene copolymer ammonium salt does not contain as an integral part of its composition, except as impurities, any elements other than those listed in 40 CFR 723.250(d)(2)(ii).

4. Acrylic acid, styrene, alpha-methyl styrene ammonium salt copolymer is not designed, nor is it reasonably anticipated to substantially degrade, decompose, or depolymerize.

5. Acrylic acid, styrene, alpha-methyl styrene copolymer ammonium salt is not manufactured or imported from monomers and/or other reactants that are not already included on the Toxic Substance Control Act (TSCA) Chemical Substance Inventory or manufactured under an applicable TSCA section 5 exemption.

6. Acrylic acid, styrene, alpha-methyl styrene copolymer ammonium salt is not a water absorbing polymer.

7. Acrylic acid, styrene, alpha-methyl styrene copolymer ammonium salt does not contain any group as reactive functional groups.

8. The minimum number-average molecular weight of the acrylic acid, styrene, alpha-methyl styrene copolymer is listed as 1,200 daltons. Substances with molecular weights greater than 400 generally are not absorbed through the intact skin, and substances with molecular weights greater than 1,000 generally are not absorbed through the intact gastrointestinal (GI) tract. Chemicals not absorbed through the skin or GI tract generally are incapable of eliciting a toxic response.

9. The Acrylic acid, styrene, alpha-methyl styrene copolymer has a number-average molecular weight of 1,200 and contains less than 10% oligomeric material below molecular weight 500 and less than 25% oligomeric material below 1,000 molecular weight.

In addition, acrylic acid, styrene, alpha-methyl styrene copolymer is approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) under 21 CFR for contact with food as a component in adhesives (21 CFR 175.105), coatings (21 CFR 175.300), and paper and paperboard (21 CFR 176.170). The ammonium hydroxide utilized to form the ammonium salt is listed in 21 CFR 184.1139 under the section, ''Direct food substances affirmed as generally recognized as safe''.

B. Aggregate Exposure

Acrylic acid, styrene, alpha-methyl styrene copolymer ammonium salt formulations have been in commerce since the mid 1960's. The copolymer is ubiquitous in our every day environment and as it is commonly used in flexographic printing inks and coatings, such as on newspapers,

corrugated boxes (e.g. pizza boxes) and disposable drinking cups.

Although exposure to acrylic acid, styrene, alpha-methyl styrene copolymer ammonium salt may occur through dietary (e.g., food wrapping containing copolymer) and non-occupational (e.g., printed articles) sources, the chemical characteristics of acrylic acid, styrene, alpha-methyl styrenecopolymer ammonium salt lead to the conclusion that there is a reasonable certainty of no harm from aggregate exposure to the polymer. Given the existing widespread and historic use of acrylic acid, styrene, alpha-methyl styrene copolymer ammonium salt, any additional exposure resulting from the approval of the copolymer as an inert ingredient in pesticide formulations for use on growing crops or to raw agricultural commodities after harvest is not warranted.

C. Cumulative Effects

At this time there is no information to indicate that any toxic effects produced by acrylic acid, styrene, alpha-methyl styrene copolymer ammonium salt would be cumulative with those of any other chemical. Given the compound's categorization as a ''low risk polymer'' (40 CFR 723.250) and its proposed use as an inert ingredient in pesticide formulations, there is no reasonable expectation of increased risk due to cumulative exposure.

D. International Tolerances

Westvaco is petitioning that acrylic acid, styrene, alpha-methyl styrene copolymer ammonium salt be exempt from the requirement of a tolerance based upon its status as a low risk polymer as per 40 CFR 723.250. Therefore, analytical method to determine residues of acrylic acid, styrene, alpha-methyl styrene copolymer in raw agricultural commodities treated with pesticide formulations containing acrylic acid, styrene, alpha-methyl styrene copolymer have not been proposed.

2. Westvaco Corporation

PP 6E4750

EPA has received a pesticide petition (PP 6E4750) from Westvaco Corporation, Chemical Division, 3950 Faber Place Drive, North Charleston, SC 29405, proposing pursuant to section 408(d) of the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, 21 U.S.C. 346a(d), to amend 40 CFR part 180 to establish an exemption from the requirement of a tolerance for residues of styrene, 2-ethylhexyl acrylate, butyl acrylate copolymer (CAS Reg. No. 30795-23-4) when used as an inert ingredient (encapsulating agent, dispensers, resins, fibers and beads) in pesticide formulations applied to growing crops or raw agricultural commodities after harvest, under 40 CFR 180.1001(c) and applied to animals under 40 CFR 180.1001(e). EPA has determined that the petition contains data or information regarding the elements set forth in section 408(d)(2) of the FFDCA; however, EPA has not fully evaluated the sufficiency of the submitted data at this time or whether the data supports granting of the petition. Additional data may be needed before EPA rules on the petition.

A. Toxicity Data

As part of the EPA policy statement on inert ingredients published in the **Federal Register** of April 22, 1987 (52 FR 13305) (FRL–3190-1), the Agency set forth a list of studies which would generally be used to evaluate the risks posed by the presence of an inert ingredient in a pesticide formulation. However, where it can be determined without the data that the inert ingredient will present minimal or no risk, the Agency generally does not require some or all of the listed studies to rule on the proposed tolerance or exemption from the requirement of a tolerance for an inert ingredient. Westvaco believes that the data and information described below is adequate to ascertain the toxicology and characterize the risk associated with the use of styrene, 2-ethylhexyl acrylate, butyl acrylate copolymer (CAS Reg. No. 30795-23-4) as an inert ingredient in pesticide formulations applied to growing crops and raw agricultural commodities after harvest.

In the case of certain chemical substances that are defined as ''polymers'', the EPA has established a set of criteria which identify categories of polymers that present low risk. These criteria (described in 40 CFR 723.250) identify polymers that are relatively unreactive and stable compared to other chemical substances as well as polymers that typically are not readily absorbed. These properties generally limit a polymer's ability to cause adverse effects. In addition, these criteria exclude polymers about which little is known. The EPA believes that polymers meeting the criteria noted below will present minimal or no risk.

Styrene, 2-ethylhexyl acrylate, butyl acrylate copolymer (CAS Reg. No. 30795-23-4) conforms to the definition of polymer given in 40 CFR 723.250(b) and meets the following criteria that are used to identify low risk polymers.

1. Styrene, 2-ethylhexyl acrylate, butyl acrylate copolymer is not a cationic polymer, nor is it reasonably anticipated to become a cationic polymer in a natural aquatic environment.

2. Styrene, 2-ethylhexyl acrylate, butyl acrylate copolymer contains as an integral part of its composition the atomic elements carbon, chlorine, and hydrogen.

3. Styrene, 2-ethylhexyl acrylate, butyl acrylate copolymer does not contain as an integral part of its composition, except as impurities, any elements other than those listed in 40 CFR 723.250 (d)(2)(ii).

4. Styrene, 2-ethylhexyl acrylate, butyl acrylate copolymer is not designed, nor is it reasonably anticipated to substantially degrade, decompose, or depolymerize.

5. Styrene, 2-ethylhexyl acrylate, butyl acrylate copolymer is not manufactured or imported from monomers and/or other reactants that are not already included on the Toxic Substance Control Act (TSCA) Chemical Substance Inventory or manufactured under an applicable TSCA section 5 exemption.

6. Styrene, 2-ethylhexyl acrylate, butyl acrylate copolymer is not a water absorbing polymer.

7. Styrene, 2-ethylhexyl acrylate, butyl acrylate copolymer does not contain any group as reactive functional groups.

8. The minimum number-average molecular weight of styrene, 2-ethylhexyl acrylate, butyl acrylate copolymer is listed as 4,228 daltons. Substances with molecular weights greater than 400 generally are not absorbed through the intact skin, and substances with molecular weights greater than 1,000 generally are not absorbed through the intact gastrointestinal (GI) tract. Chemicals not absorbed through the skin or GI tract generally are incapable of eliciting a toxic response.

9. Styrene, 2-ethylhexyl acrylate, butyl acrylate copolymer has a number-average molecular weight of 4,228 and contains less than 10% oligomeric material below molecular weight 500 and less than 25% oligomeric material below 1,000 molecular weight.

B. Aggregate Exposure

Styrene, 2-ethylhexyl acrylate, butyl acrylate copolymer formulations have been in commerce since the mid 1960's. The copolymer is ubiquitous in our every day environment and as it is commonly used in flexographic printing inks and coatings such as on

newspapers, corrugated boxes (e.g. pizza boxes) and disposable drinking cups.

Although exposure to styrene, 2-ethylhexyl acrylate, butyl acrylate copolymer may occur through dietary (e.g., food wrapping containing copolymer) and non-occupational (e.g., printed articles) sources, the chemical characteristics of styrene, 2-ethylhexyl acrylate, butyl acrylate copolymer lead to the conclusion that there is a reasonable certainty of no harm from aggregate exposure to the polymer. Given the existing widespread and historic use of styrene, 2-ethylhexyl acrylate, butyl acrylate copolymer, any additional exposure resulting from the approval of the copolymer as an inert ingredient in pesticide formulations for use on growing crops or to raw agricultural commodities after harvest is not warranted.

In addition, styrene, 2-ethylhexyl acrylate, butyl acrylate copolymer is approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) under 21 CFR for contact with food as a component in adhesives (21 CFR 175.105), coatings (21 CFR 175.300), and paper and paperboard (21 CFR 176.170).

C. Cumulative Effects

At this time there is no information to indicate that any toxic effects produced by styrene, 2-ethylhexyl acrylate, butyl acrylate copolymer would be cumulative with those of any other chemical. Given the compound's categorization as a ''low risk polymer'' (40 CFR 723.250) and its proposed use as an inert ingredient in pesticide formulations, there is no reasonable expectation of increased risk due to cumulative exposure.

D. International Tolerances

Westvaco is petitioning that styrene, 2-ethylhexyl acrylate, butyl acrylate copolymer be exempt from the requirement of a tolerance based upon its status as a low risk polymer as per 40 CFR 723.250. Therefore, analytical methods to determine residues of styrene, 2-ethylhexyl acrylate, butyl acrylate copolymer in raw agricultural commodities treated with pesticide formulations containing styrene, 2-ethylhexyl acrylate, butyl acrylate copolymer have not been proposed.

[FR Doc. 98–13446 Filed 5–19–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560–50–F

FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC).

ACTION: Notice and request for comment.

SUMMARY: The FDIC, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. chapter 35). Currently, the FDIC is soliciting comments concerning the following collections of information titled: (1) Procedures for Monitoring Bank Secrecy Act Compliance; (2) Application to Participate in a Conversion Transaction; (3) Application for Waiver of Prohibition on Receipt of Brokered Deposits by Adequately Capitalized Insured Depository Institutions, Registration of Deposit Brokers; (4) Notice of Branch Closure and (5) Real Estate Lending Standards.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before July 20, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Interested parties are invited to submit written comments to Tamara R. Manly, Management Analyst (Regulatory Analysis), (202) 898–7453, Office of the Executive Secretary, Room 4058, Attention: Comments/OES, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, 550 17th Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20429. All comments should refer to the OMB control number. Comments may be hand-delivered to the guard station at the rear of the 17th Street Building (located on F Street), on business days between 7:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. [FAX number (202) 898–3838; Internet address: comments@fdic.gov].

A copy of the comments may also be submitted to the OMB desk officer for the FDIC: Alexander Hunt, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, New Executive Office Building, Room 3208, Washington, D.C. 20503.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tamara R. Manly, at the address identified above.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Proposal to renew the following currently approved collections of information:

1. *Title:* Procedures for Monitoring Bank Secrecy Act Compliance.

OMB Number: 3064–0087.

Frequency of Response: On occasion.

Affected Public: Any financial institution complying with the requirements of the Bank Secrecy Act.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 8,400.

Estimated Time per Response: .5 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Burden: 4,200 hours.

General Description of Collection: 12 CFR 326 requires all insured nonmenber banks to establish and maintain procedures designed to assure and monitor their compliance with the requirements of the Bank Secrecy Act (31 U.S.C. 5311 *et seq.*) and the implementing regulations promulgated thereunder by the Department of Treasury at 31 CFR 103.

2. *Title:* Application to Participate in a Conversion Transaction.

OMB Number: 3064–0098.

Frequency of Response: On occasion.

Affected Public: Any depository institution participating in a conversion transaction.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 10.

Estimated Time per Response: 3 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Burden: 30 hours.

General Description of Collection: Section 5(d) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1815(d)) provides that no insured depository institution may participate in a conversion transaction without the prior approval of the FDIC and that entrance and exit fees shall be assessed to the participating institutions. The FDIC implements this statutory requirement by requiring depository institutions wishing to participate in conversion transactions to submit a letter application to obtain FDIC approval.

3. *Title:* Application for Waiver of Prohibition on Receipt of Brokered Deposits by Adequately Capitalized Insured Depository Institutions, Registration of Deposit Brokers.

OMB Number: 3064–0099.

Frequency of Response: On occasion.

Affected Public: Any insured depository institution seeking a waiver to the prohibition on the acceptance of brokered deposits.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 175.

Estimated Time per Response: 2.2.

Estimated Total Annual Burden: 385 hours.

General Description of Collection: Section 29 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act prohibits undercapitalized insured depository institutions from accepting, renewing, or rolling over any brokered deposits.