

**List of Subjects in 40 CFR Part 180**

Administrative practice and procedure, Agricultural commodities, Pesticides and pests.

Dated: March 28, 1986.

James W. Akerman,  
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 40 CFR Part 180 continues to read as set forth below:

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

2. Section 180.1001(e) is amended by revising the entry for Polypropylene, to read as follows:

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

Inert ingredients	Limits	Uses
Polypropylene (CAS. Reg. No. 9003-07-0).	Carrier, component of plastic; slow-release tag.	

[FR Doc. 86-5751 Filed 3-18-86; 8:45 am]  
BILLING CODE 6560-50-M

**40 CFR Part 765**

[OPTS-62033A; FRL-2967-9]

**Toxic and Hazardous Substances Control; Formaldehyde; Termination of Regulatory Investigation Concerned With Occupational Exposure**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of termination of EPA's regulatory investigation of occupational exposure to formaldehyde.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces the termination of EPA's regulatory investigation addressing potential risks arising from occupational exposure to formaldehyde. The Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has initiated regulatory action to address this risk. EPA has determined that OSHA has authority under the Occupational Safety and Health Act, 29 U.S.C. 651 *et seq.*, to sufficiently reduce this risk, and EPA is taking this action, therefore, to avoid duplicative Federal regulatory activity and to redirect its own regulatory

resources. In accordance with section 9(d) of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), 15 U.S.C. 2608(d) EPA has transmitted to OSHA all studies and documents in EPA's docket pertaining to this issue. EPA will continue to investigate formaldehyde exposures that are occurring in other non-occupational settings, especially those arising from the use of pressed wood products made with formaldehyde-based resins.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Edward A. Klein, Director, TSCA Assistance Office (TS-799), Office of Toxic Substances, Environmental Protection Agency, Rm. E-543, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460. Toll-Free: 800-424-9065. In Washington, DC.: 554-1404.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**I. Background**

On May 23, 1984, EPA issued a notice in the Federal Register entitled "Formaldehyde: Determination of Significant Risk" (49 FR 21899). This notice announced that EPA had determined, under section 4(f) of TSCA, that there might be a reasonable basis to conclude that certain exposures to formaldehyde present or will present a significant risk of widespread harm to humans from cancer. Concern for the health of persons exposed to formaldehyde in the following exposure conditions triggered this determination: (1) Occupational exposure arising from the manufacture of apparel using fabrics treated with formaldehyde-based resins, and (2) residential exposure occurring in conventional and manufactured (mobile) homes where construction materials are used that contain certain formaldehyde-based resins. In conjunction with that notice, EPA issued at the same time an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPR) in the Federal Register (49 FR 21870). The ANPR initiated "appropriate action," as required by section 4(f) of TSCA, by announcing that EPA had begun a full investigation of regulatory options to address the health risks associated with these exposure categories.

**II. Occupational Exposure**

**A. Apparel Manufacturing Workers**

Exposure to formaldehyde in apparel-manufacturing workers arises principally from the slow release of formaldehyde from textiles treated with most commercial durable press (DP) finishes. An estimated 50 percent of all garments sold in the U.S. have DP finishes. The rate of formaldehyde release varies according to the type of finish used and local environmental

conditions existing within a given workplace.

Monitoring data available to EPA indicate that the average pre-1980 ambient workplace exposure level in the apparel-manufacturing industry was probably below 3 ppm; the average value may have declined since then. Current exposure data, however, are limited. Data from a 1983 National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) study of two large manufacturers of shirts show that workplace levels were at, or below, 0.51 ppm on a time weighted average (TWA) basis, and the combined mean exposure level was 0.17 ppm. From other data, EPA has estimated that exposure levels may range from 0.23 to 0.64 ppm.

Approximately 800,000 apparel workers may be regularly exposed to formaldehyde emitted from DP-treated textiles. This number of workers constitutes 70 percent of the total population estimated to be at risk currently from occupational exposures to this chemical. In other occupational groups, the risk estimates for an individual worker were generally similar to that calculated for apparel workers, but far fewer workers are exposed in these other industries.

Workplace exposure to formaldehyde emitted from DP-treated textiles is believed to have diminished substantially over the last decade due to engineering controls put in place by the apparel manufacturing industry, and to advances in chemical technology that have yielded low or zero formaldehyde-emitting DP resins. This decline in formaldehyde emissions from DP-treated fabric is believed to have been encouraged, in part, by consumer preference for fabrics without a formaldehyde odor. High formaldehyde-emitting DP finishes are now rarely used. EPA believes that further reductions in, or elimination of, apparel workers' exposure to formaldehyde may be technically feasible and may be achieved principally by using methods such as low formaldehyde-emitting finishes, optimizing the finishing conditions at textile plants, or diminishing the use of sensitized fabrics that require post-curing following apparel assembly.

**B. Other Worker Exposure**

In making its section 4(f) determination concerning formaldehyde, EPA reviewed all available data on known human exposures to the chemical. Over 30 occupationally-exposed populations were identified. Detailed discussion of these populations

can be found in the Federal Register of May 23, 1984 (49 FR 21870).

### III. Conclusion

On December 10, 1985, OSHA published in the Federal Register a proposed standard that addresses formaldehyde exposure risks to workers in all occupational settings, including workers engaged in apparel manufacturing (50 FR 50412). The proposed standard limits permissible exposure to 1 ppm or 1.5 ppm, as an 8-hour, time-weighted average, and would regulate formaldehyde as an irritant or carcinogen.

This action by OSHA demonstrates that its statutory authority may prevent or reduce to a sufficient extent the risks connected with formaldehyde exposure to workers in apparel manufacturing. EPA has therefore terminated its regulatory investigation of formaldehyde exposure in apparel manufacturing. By this action, EPA will avoid engaging in duplicative Federal rulemaking activities and will be able to redirect some of its regulatory resources.

In order to assist OSHA in its deliberations, and in accordance with section 9(d) of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. 2608(d), EPA has transmitted to OSHA copies of all studies and documents in EPA's docket that may pertain to their rulemaking, including data collected prior to the 4(f) determination on occupational categories other than apparel exposure, and is prepared to provide technical support to OSHA, if requested.

EPA will continue to investigate for possible regulatory action formaldehyde exposure arising from the use of pressed wood products; this activity will involve close coordination with OSHA and other appropriate Federal regulatory agencies.

Dated: March 11, 1986.

Lee M. Thomas,  
Administrator.

[FR Doc. 86-5972 Filed 3-18-86; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-M

## FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

### 47 CFR Chapter 1

[CC Docket No. 83-525; FCC 86-29]

#### Inquiry Into Policies To Be Followed in the Authorization of Common Carrier Facilities

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Summary of notice of proposed rulemaking.

**SUMMARY:** This notice of proposed rulemaking is necessary to develop policies and guidelines for the construction and use of common carrier transmission facilities in the Caribbean region during the 1985-1995 period. This notice of proposed rulemaking sets forth the Commission's tentative conclusions regarding the guidelines the Commission will follow in considering applications for the construction and use of common carrier facilities in the Caribbean region during the 1985-1995 period and requests comments on those tentative conclusions.

The Commission tentatively concludes that the range of alternative facilities plans submitted in response to the Notice of Inquiry which should receive further consideration can be narrowed. The Commission further tentatively concludes that circuits used by all carriers to provide all services, other than circuits used by the American Telephone and Telegraph Company (AT&T) for the provision of international message telephone service (IMTS) and 800 Service-Overseas should be exempted from specific circuit distribution guidelines.

**DATES:** Entities made parties to this proceeding shall, and other interested parties may submit:

- A. The additional information requested by February 25, 1986
- B. Comments by March 27, 1986
- C. Reply Comments by April 11, 1986.

**ADDRESS:** Responses to this notice should be submitted to: The Secretary Federal Communications Commission, 1919 M Street NW., Washington, DC 20554.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Robert Gosse, Jacqueline Spindler, International Policy Division, Common Carrier Bureau, Federal Communications Division, Washington, DC 20554, (202) 632-4047.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

In the matter of Inquiry into Policies to be Followed in the Authorization of Common Carrier Facilities to Meet Caribbean Region Telecommunications Needs During the 1985-1995 Period; CC Docket No. 83-525.

This is a summary of the Commission's notice of proposed rulemaking adopted January 14, 1986 and released February 5, 1986. Commissioner Dawson concurring and issuing a statement at a later date.

The full text of this Commission Decision is available for inspection and copying during normal business hours in the FCC Dockets Branch (room 230), 1919 M Street, Northwest, Washington, DC. The complete text of this decision may also be purchased from the Commission's Copy Contractor,

International Transcription Service.  
(202) 857-3800, 2100 M Street,  
Northwest, Suite 140, Washington, DC  
20037.

#### Summary of Notice of Proposed Rulemaking

1. In this Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (Notice), the Commission is seeking comments and additional information to aid it in developing United States policies and guidelines governing the participation of the United States International Service Carriers (USISCs) and the Communications Satellite Corporation (Comsat) in the construction and use of common carrier transmission facilities in the Caribbean region during the 1985-1995 period. The Commission examines the facilities planning information alternative facilities plans and the analyses of those plans submitted by the USISC's and Comsat reaches certain tentative conclusions and requests additional information of the USISCs and Comsat.

2. The Commission tentatively concludes that the range of alternative facilities construction and use plans which should receive further consideration can be narrowed. Specifically, the Commission tentatively concludes that the USISC's Plans 1, 2 and 2A can be excluded from further consideration. The Commission notes that the analog cables proposed by these plans had higher per circuit and total system costs than the digital, optical fiber submarine cables being proposed in another USISC plan. Moreover, recent updates of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company's (AT&T) traffic forecast appears to confirm the USISC's conclusion that existing cable and satellite facilities in the Caribbean region are adequate to satisfy demand for service for the near term. In addition, it appears that the development of digital, optical fiber submarine cables operating at 45 and 90 megabits per second (mb/s) as proposed in these three USISC plans has been abandoned, at least at this time, in favor of using digital, optical fiber submarine cables operating at 140 and 280 mb/s.

3. Because the Commission does not have before it cost, demand flexibility or service reliability analyses for any of the USISC or Comsat alternative plans based on AT&T's most recent traffic forecast update or information on all INTELSAT options for replacement of INTELSAT V-A satellites, the Commission is unable to reach firm tentative preferences for all aspects of any of the alternative plans before it. It therefore requests the USISCs and