

Federal Alert—new regulations

This listing covers regulations appearing in the Federal Register from Dec. 5 through Jan. 9. Page numbers below refer to those issues.

PROPOSED

Environmental Protection Agency—Limits air and water emissions of vinyl chloride to 10 ppm, applies to ethylene dichloride-vinyl chloride plants and polyvinyl chloride plants; comments by Feb. 23 (Dec. 24, page 59532).

Lists 300 chemicals whose spills are dangerous to aquatic life, groups them into four categories based on their relative potential hazard to aquatic life, spells out amounts of spills considered harmful for each category, assesses penalties up to \$5 million, applies to transportation systems (such as tankers) and fixed facilities (such as industrial plants). Chemicals include aldrin, dieldrin, heptachlor, nitric acid; comments by March 1 (Dec. 30, page 59960).

Sets for certain organic chemicals manufacturing processes effluent limitations for existing sources, standard of performance for new sources, pretreatment standards for new sources, and pretreatment standards for existing sources; comments by Feb. 4 (Jan. 5, page 914).

National Institute for Occupational Safety & Health—Solicits information to develop criteria documents on: p-dichlorobenzene, ammonium nitrate, carbon black, dichloroacetylene, cyclohexanols, mercaptans, furfuryl alcohol, magnesium and its compounds, alkali metal hydroxides, dialkyl ethers, isobutyl alcohol, amyl alcohol, bromine pentafluoride, phenothiazine, iron and its compounds, diazoethane, dibutyl phosphate, indium and its compounds, glycidyl ethers, and chromium and its compounds, except chromium(VI); by April 5 (Jan. 5, page 802).

FINAL

Consumer Product Safety Commission—Denies petition by city of Los Angeles to ban use of chlorofluorocarbons in aerosols and refrigeration equipment (Jan. 5, page 815).

Department of Commerce, Patents & Trademark Office—Amends rules of practice in patent cases and in trademark cases; for instance, procedures for requesting a rehearing and for filing an opposition; effective Feb. 1 (Jan. 5, page 796).

Specifies new definition for "flammable liquid," and "combustible liquid"; effective March 31 (Dec. 31, page 60030).

Amends labeling requirements for articles on vessels; for instance, substituting the word "flammable" for the word "inflammable"; effective March 31 (Jan. 5, page 763).

Energy Research & Development Administration—Spells out policy relating to establishment of Solar Energy Research Institute (Dec. 24, page 59813).

Environmental Protection Agency—Sets forth requirements for procurement of architectural or engineering services under grants for construction of treatment works, limiting profit margins to reasonable amounts; effective March 1 (Dec. 17, page 58602).

Establishes national interim primary standards for drinking water, covers inorganic chemicals (arsenic, barium, cadmium, chromium, lead, mercury, nitrate, selenium, and silver) and organic pesticides (endrin, lindane, methoxychlor, toxaphene, 2,4-D, 2,4,5-TP Silvex); effective June 24, 1977 (Dec. 24, page 59566).

Establishes sampling, monitoring, testing, and other requirements for a special agency-state monitoring program to gather information on organic contaminants (carbon tetrachloride, benzene, vinyl chloride, chloroform, bromoform, pentachlorophenol, p-dichlorobenzene, polychlorinated biphenyls, 1,2,4-trichlorobenzene, bis-(2-chloroethyl) ether, 1,1,2-trichloroethylene, and others) in drinking water; effective immediately (Dec. 24, page 59567).

Food & Drug Administration—Stays previous decision permitting use of sweetener aspartame, pending further audit of animal studies; effective immediately (Dec. 5, page 58907).

Requires that fat and oil ingredients, now identified on labels by class names, such as "vegetable oil" or "shortening," be identified by specific source, for example, "cottonseed oil" or "beef fat"; effective Jan. 1, 1978 (Jan. 6, page 1155).

MEETINGS

Environmental Protection Agency—Announces public hearing on its proposed vinyl chloride air emission standard; Feb. 3 in Washington, D.C. (Dec. 31, page 60079).

Announces public hearings on its proposed standard specifying environmental radiation protection requirements for normal operations of the uranium cycle; Feb. 17 in Washington, D.C. (Jan. 6, page 1124).

National Commission on Water Quality—Announces public hearings on its draft report "Impacts of the 1972 Federal Water Pollution Control Act"; Jan. 10 in Chicago and in San Francisco, Jan. 12 in Fort Worth and in Boston, and Jan. 19 in Washington, D.C. (Dec. 16, page 58354).

National Institutes of Health—Announces three public hearings to seek information from scientific community on its grants peer review system; Feb. 12 in Chicago, Feb. 19 in San Francisco, Feb. 26 in Bethesda, Md. (Dec. 8, page 57235).

Office of the Federal Register—Tells of two public briefings on how to use the register, including a session on the history of the register, the difference between legislation and regulation, and a session on problem solving exercises; Jan. 21 and Jan. 22 in Washington, D.C. (Dec. 19, page 58896).

15-9 CHEMICAL AND
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