EPA REQUIRES CHEMICAL FIRMS TO PROVIDE HEALTH AND SAFETY DATA FOR 39 CHEMICALS

Final regulations were unveiled by the Environmental Protection Agency August 26 requiring chemical manufacturers and processors to provide health and safety data on 39 chemicals. Most of the 39 chemicals and approximately 175 substances in categories of chemicals have been selected for testing by the Interagency Testing Committee, which recommended the list.

The studies which industry must give EPA are limited to those that are unpublished and not otherwise available to the agency. These include studies on monitoring, industrial hygiene, environmental and health and certain physical and chemical properties that are indicators of potential effects on health or the environment. In the future, all chemicals recommended by the committee will fall under this reporting rule. Industry will have 90 days to submit the information.

The new rule takes in current manufacturers and processors and those who will be making or processing these chemicals in the next three years. Those who made or processed the chemicals during the past 10 years must also provide the data. Dr. John Todhunter, who heads EPA's Office of Pesticides and Toxic Substances, claimed that, "This rule will enable EPA to quickly gather the information necessary to assess whether a chemical should be tested by industry in order to discover any risks to public health or the environment. These studies will not only help us determine the need for further testing, but also provide guidance for the particular tests needed, should testing be necessary." The 39 chemicals are:

acetonitrile
acrylamide
alkyl epoxides
alkyl phthalates
anilines
antimony
antimony trioxide
antimony sulfide
aryl phosphates
asbestos
bisazobiphenyl dyes
chlorinated benzenes, mono & di
chlorinated benzenes, tri-, tetra- and penta-
chlorinated naphthalenes
chlorinated paraffins
chloromethane
cresols
cyclohexanone
dicloromethane
1,2,dichloropropane
glycidol
halogenated alkyl epoxides
hexachloro-1,3-butadiene
hexachlorocyclopentadiene
hydroquinone
isophorone
mesityl oxide
4,4-methylenedianiline
methyl ethyl ketone
methyl isobutyl ketone
nitrobenzene
p-phenylenediamine
polychlorinated terphenyls
pyridine
quinone
toluene
1,1,1-trichloroethane
vinyl fluoride
vinylidene fluoride
xylenes

In addition to final action on the 39 chemicals, EPA also proposed adding 65 chemicals to its list. These chemicals have recently been designated by the ITC as priority candidates for possible testing. EPA estimated that the cost of this rule to industry would range from $376,000 to $698,000. The agency noted that it does not believe the rule will have a major effect on competition, productivity or innovation within the chemical industry.

For further information, contact EPA's Industry Assistance Office, toll free (800) 424-9065 or in Washington, 554-1404.

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EPA PLANS TO PAT ITSELF ON THE BACK as part of the agenda for the September 9 meeting of the Administrator's Toxic Substances Advisory Committee. Dr. John Todhunter, head of EPA's Office of Pesticides and Toxic Substances, plans to list the accomplishments of the Office of Toxic Substances since the last meeting. The agenda also includes ATSAC views on reporting allegations of adverse effects of chemicals under Sec. 8(c) of the Toxic Substances Control Act and a presentation by A.E. Conroy on enforcement issues.

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