

B U L L E T I N

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April 8, 1986

EPA'S PROPOSED RULE TO BAN AND PHASE OUT ASBESTOS USES

In BULLETIN NO. 845 of February 12, 1986, we advised on EPA's proposed rules for a ban on the use of asbestos. The proposals, and options to the general proposal, would in effect ban the use of asbestos in friction products in either five or ten years. In that proposal, EPA set a comment cut-off date of April 29, 1986, and scheduled public hearings to start on about May 14, 1986.

The EPA has now advised that the comment period has been extended until June 30, 1986. Also, they state that they expect the hearings to be rescheduled to start on about July 14, 1986. For further information concerning the status of these proposals and scheduled hearings, you may contact the EPA at 800-424-9065.

As noted in BULLETIN NO. 845, a meeting of the Institute's Board of Directors was called to consider an Institute position on these proposals. That Board meeting was held on March 11. The Board recommended that the Institute advise the EPA of several objections to the proposals as they would effect friction products. Mr. Riopelle, Chairman of the Institute's Health and Environmental Affairs Committee, and Mr. Drislane were asked to draft comments reconfirming earlier comments to EPA and OSHA, and adding new comments as appropriate.

It is understood that not all Members of the Institute will necessarily support the Institute comments. The individual directors were not unanimous in support of these comments. The draft will shortly be sent to the Board of Directors and Legal Counsel, and it is expected that the general line of comments will be forwarded to EPA before the new comment cut-off date.

For those wishing to comment individually, they should write:

Document Control Officer (TS-793)
Office of Toxic Substances
Environmental Protection Agency
Room E-209
401 M Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20460

The foregoing is for your information.

E. W. Drislane
Executive Director

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FRICION MATERIALS STANDARDS INSTITUTE, INC.

FEDERAL REGISTER Notice of April 8, 1986 - Extension of Comment Period for EPA Proposal to ban certain asbestos products and to phase out other uses (Comment period extended to June 29, 1986)

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Part 763

[OPTS-62036A; FRL-2999-2]

Asbestos; Proposed Mining and Import Restrictions and Proposed Manufacturing, Importation, and Processing Prohibitions; Extension of Comment Period

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of extension of the comment period.

SUMMARY: EPA is extending for 60 days the comment period on the proposed rule to ban certain asbestos products and phase out other such products. EPA is taking this action to give all interested persons additional opportunity to comment.

DATES: Public hearings will be held in Washington, D.C. beginning approximately July 14, 1986. The exact times and locations of the hearings will be available by calling EPA's TSCA Assistance Office. Comments on this proposed rule and requests to participate in the informal hearings must be submitted by June 29, 1986. Reply comments made in response to issues raised at each hearing must be submitted no later than 1 week after the close of that hearing.

ADDRESS: Since some comments are expected to contain confidential business information, all comments should be sent in triplicate to: Document Control Officer (TS-790), Office of Toxic Substances, Environmental Protection Agency, Room E-201, 401 M Street SW., Washington, DC 20460.

Comments should include the docket control number OPTS-62036A. Nonconfidential comments and

nonconfidential versions of confidential comments received on this proposal will be available for reviewing and copying from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays, in Rm. E-107, at the address given above.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Edward A. Klein, Director, TSCA Assistance Office (TS-799), Office of Toxic Substances, Environmental Protection Agency, Room E-543, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460. Toll-free: (800-424-9065). In Washington, DC: (554-1404). Outside the USA: (Operator-202-554-1404).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: EPA proposed a rule to ban certain asbestos products and phase out other such products which was published in the *Federal Register* of January 29, 1986 (51 FR 3738). The proposal allowed 90 days for public comment, with comments due by April 29, 1986. The Asbestos Information Association, General Motors Corporation, and other persons have requested that the comment period be extended 60 days, to June 29, 1986. Because of the complexity of the rulemaking, EPA has decided to extend the comment period as requested.

EPA also announces that additional material has been added to the docket since the date of proposal and that further relevant material will be added to the docket as it is received.

List of Subjects in 40 CFR Part 763

Environmental protection, Hazardous substances, Recordkeeping and reporting requirements, Asbestos.

Authority: 15 U.S.C. 2605 and 2607(c).

Dated: April 2, 1986.

John A. Moore,
Assistant Administrator for Pesticides and Toxic Substances.

[FR Doc. 86-7768 Filed 4-8-86; 2:56 pm]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-M

FMSI 02416