1600
7/12/95

(2)

Environmental Guidance Regulatory Bulletin

DOE/EH--95015009

Office of Environmental Guidance • RCRA/CERCLA Division (EH-231)

September 1994

Certain Glycol Ethers Eliminated from Toxic Chemical Release Reporting Requirements

Introduction

Effective June 28, 1994, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) eliminated high molecular weight glycol ethers from the reporting requirements of section 313 of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act of 1986 (EPCRA). EPCRA (42 U.S.C. 11023) is also referred to as Title III of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) of 1986.

EPA redefined the glycol ethers category list of chemicals subject to reporting based on an EPA review of available human health data on short-chain glycol ethers. EPA is removing only the

surfactant glycol ethers, which are high molecular weight glycol ethers, i.e., those with pendant alkyl groups and that typically have eight or more carbon atoms. The redefinition retains certain glycol ethers (i.e., ethylene glycol ethers where there are 1,2, or 3 repeating ethylene oxide groups) in the category. These are reasonably anticipated to cause adverse human health effects.

Statutory Authority

Section 313 of EPCRA requires certain facilities manufacturing, processing, or otherwise using listed toxic chemicals in excess of established thresholds to report their environmental releases of such chemicals annually. Section 313 established an initial list of toxic chemicals that included more than 300 chemicals and 20 chemical categories. Section 313 (d) authorizes EPA to add or delete chemicals from this list and to set forth criteria for such actions.

None of the chemicals listed in the glycol ethers category meet the listing criteria under section 313(d) (2) (C) for ecotoxicity, i.e., environmental effects. However, the low molecular weight glycol ethers are known to cause various adverse human health effects and, therefore, meet the requirements for listing under section 313 (d) (2) (A) and (B) based on their potential toxicity. Data indicates that as the molecular weight increases the human health effects associated with glycol ethers decreases. There are no data

(Text continued on Page 2)

indicating that high molecular weight glycol ethers (with pendant alkyl chains of eight or more carbons) can be reasonably anticipated to cause adverse effects in humans. For these reasons, EPA believes there is insufficient evidence that long chain glycol ethers can be anticipated to cause adverse acute or chronic human health effects, and, therefore, they do not meet the listing criteria under section 313 (d) (2) (A) or (B).

EPA's action to remove high molecular weight glycol ethers became effective on June 28, 1994. The final rule was published in the Federal Register on July 5, 1994 (59 FR 34386). This action is retroactive such that the last year facilities have to report releases of these excluded glycol ethers is 1993, which covers releases that occurred in 1992. The glycol ethers being excluded from the section 313 list will not need to be reported in the 1994 report, which covers releases that occurred in 1993. Thus, facilities will not have to collect release information for any releases of the excluded glycol ethers that occurred during the

1993 reporting year or for any releases that occur in the future.

Deleted EPCRA Section 313 Glycol Ethers Category

EPA has not deleted all glycol ethers from reporting requirements under EPCRA Section 313. Reporting will still be required for those glycol ethers meeting the revised definition. The high molecular weight glycol ethers that must be reported meet the following definition:

Where:

n=1,2, or 3;

R=alkyl C7 or less, or

R=phenyl or alkyl substituted phenyl;

R'=H or alkyl C7 or less; or

OR' consisting of carboxylic acid ester, sulfate, phosphate, nitrate, or sulfonate.

*Please direct questions regarding this RCRA
notice on the Toxic Chemical Release
Reporting Requirements to:*

Kathleen Schmidt

DOE Office of Environmental Guidance

RCRA/CERCLA Division, EH-231

1000 Independence Ave., S.W.

Washington, D.C. 20585

FTS 896-5982

(202) 586-5982

DISCLAIMER

This report was prepared as an account of work sponsored by an agency of the United States Government. Neither the United States Government nor any agency thereof, nor any of their employees, make any warranty, express or implied, or assumes any legal liability or responsibility for the accuracy, completeness, or usefulness of any information, apparatus, product, or process disclosed, or represents that its use would not infringe privately owned rights. Reference herein to any specific commercial product, process, or service by trade name, trademark, manufacturer, or otherwise does not necessarily constitute or imply its endorsement, recommendation, or favoring by the United States Government or any agency thereof. The views and opinions of authors expressed herein do not necessarily state or reflect those of the United States Government or any agency thereof.

DISCLAIMER

Portions of this document may be illegible in electronic image products. Images are produced from the best available original document.