

of the United States. EPA will submit a report containing this rule and other required information to the U.S. Senate, the U.S. House of Representatives, and the Comptroller General of the United States prior to publication of this rule in the **Federal Register**. This rule is not a "major rule" as defined by 5 U.S.C. 804(2).

List of Subjects in 40 CFR Part 180

Environmental protection,
Administrative practice and procedure,
Agricultural commodities, Pesticides

and pests, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

Dated: March 26, 1998.

James Jones,

Director, Registration Division, Office of Pesticide Programs.

Therefore, 40 CFR chapter I is amended as follows:

PART 180—[AMENDED]

1. The authority citation for part 180 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 21 U.S.C. 346a and 371.

2. In § 180.472, in the table to paragraph (b), by adding an entry for "Vegetable, cucurbits," to read as follows:

§ 180.472 Imidacloprid; tolerances for residues.

* * * * *

(b) * * *

Commodity	Parts per million	Expiration/Revocation Date
* * *	* * *	
Vegetables, cucurbits	0.2	3/31/99

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[FR Doc. 98-8643 Filed 3-30-98; 1:15 pm]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-F

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Part 180

[OPP-300630; FRL-5779-1]
RIN 2070-AB78

Bifenthrin; Extension of Tolerance for Emergency Exemptions

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: This rule extends a time-limited tolerance for residues of the insecticide bifenthrin and its metabolites in or on cucurbits at 1.0 part per million (ppm) for an additional one-year period, to April 30, 1999. This action is in response to EPA's granting of an emergency exemption under section 18 of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act authorizing use of the pesticide on cucurbits. Section 408(l)(6) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA) requires EPA to establish a time-limited tolerance or exemption from the requirement for a tolerance for pesticide chemical residues in food that will result from the use of a pesticide under an emergency exemption granted by EPA under section 18 of FIFRA.

DATES: This regulation becomes effective April 1, 1998. Objections and requests for hearings must be received by EPA, on or before June 1, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Written objections and hearing requests, identified by the

docket control number, OPP-300630, must be submitted to: Hearing Clerk (1900), Environmental Protection Agency, Rm. M3708, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460. Fees accompanying objections and hearing requests shall be labeled "Tolerance Petition Fees" and forwarded to: EPA Headquarters Accounting Operations Branch, OPP (Tolerance Fees), P.O. Box 360277M, Pittsburgh, PA 15251. A copy of any objections and hearing requests filed with the Hearing Clerk identified by the docket control number, OPP-300630, must also be submitted to: Public Information and Records Integrity Branch, Information Resources and Services Division (7502C), Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460. In person, bring a copy of objections and hearing requests to Rm. 119, Crystal Mall #2, 1921 Jefferson Davis Hwy., Arlington, VA.

A copy of objections and hearing requests filed with the Hearing Clerk may also be submitted electronically by sending electronic mail (e-mail) to: opp-docket@epamail.epa.gov. Follow the instructions in Unit II. of this preamble. No Confidential Business Information (CBI) should be submitted through e-mail.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: By mail: Andrea Beard, Registration Division (7505C), Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460. Office location, telephone number, and e-mail address: Rm. 267, CM #2, 1921 Jefferson Davis Hwy., Arlington, VA 22202, (703) 308-9356; e-mail: beard.andrea@epamail.epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: EPA issued a final rule, published in the **Federal Register** of June 6, 1997 (62 FR 30996) (FRL-5719-3), which announced that on its own initiative and under section 408(e) of the FFDCA, 21 U.S.C. 346a(e) and (l)(6), it established a time-limited tolerance for the residues of bifenthrin and its metabolites in or on cucurbits at 1.0 ppm, with an expiration date of April 30, 1998. EPA established the tolerance because section 408(l)(6) of the FFDCA requires EPA to establish a time-limited tolerance or exemption from the requirement for a tolerance for pesticide chemical residues in food that will result from the use of a pesticide under an emergency exemption granted by EPA under section 18 of FIFRA. Such tolerances can be established without providing notice or period for public comment.

EPA received a request to extend the use of bifenthrin on cucurbits for this year growing season due to the silverleaf whitefly being a recently-introduced pest in California, which can have devastating effects on the cucurbit crop, and is resistant to registered alternatives. An exemption has also been issued for another material, imidacloprid, to provide early season control. However, bifenthrin is also needed for control later in the season. After having reviewed the submission, EPA concurs that emergency conditions exist for this state. EPA has authorized under FIFRA section 18 the use of bifenthrin on cucurbits for control of silverleaf whitefly in cucurbits.

EPA assessed the potential risks presented by residues of bifenthrin in or on cucurbits. In doing so, EPA considered the new safety standard in FFDCA section 408(b)(2), and decided

that the necessary tolerance under FFDCA section 408(l)(6) would be consistent with the new safety standard and with FIFRA section 18. The data and other relevant material have been evaluated and discussed in the final rule published in the **Federal Register** of June 6, 1997 (62 FR 30996) (FRL-5719-3). Based on that data and information considered, the Agency reaffirms that extension of the time-limited tolerance will continue to meet the requirements of section 408(l)(6). Therefore, the time-limited tolerance is extended for an additional one-year period. Although this tolerance will expire and is revoked on April 30, 1999, under FFDCA section 408(l)(5), residues of the pesticide not in excess of the amounts specified in the tolerance remaining in or on cucurbits after that date will not be unlawful, provided the pesticide is applied in a manner that was lawful under FIFRA and the application occurred prior to the revocation of the tolerance. EPA will take action to revoke this tolerance earlier if any experience with, scientific data on, or other relevant information on this pesticide indicate that the residues are not safe.

I. Objections and Hearing Requests

The new FFDCA section 408(g) provides essentially the same process for persons to "object" to a tolerance regulation issued by EPA under new section 408(e) and (l)(6) as was provided in the old section 408 and in section 409. However, the period for filing objections is 60 days, rather than 30 days. EPA currently has procedural regulations which govern the submission of objections and hearing requests. These regulations will require some modification to reflect the new law. However, until those modifications can be made, EPA will continue to use those procedural regulations with appropriate adjustments to reflect the new law.

Any person may, by June 1, 1998, this regulation and may also request a hearing on those objections. Objections and hearing requests must be filed with the Hearing Clerk, at the address given above (40 CFR 178.20). A copy of the objections and/or hearing requests filed with the Hearing Clerk should be submitted to the OPP docket for this rulemaking. The objections submitted must specify the provisions of the regulation deemed objectionable and the grounds for the objections (40 CFR 178.25). Each objection must be accompanied by the fee prescribed by 40 CFR 180.33(i). If a hearing is requested, the objections must include a statement of the factual issues on which a hearing is requested, the requestor's

contentions on such issues, and a summary of any evidence relied upon by the requestor (40 CFR 178.27). A request for a hearing will be granted if the Administrator determines that the material submitted shows the following: There is genuine and substantial issue of fact; there is a reasonable possibility that available evidence identified by the requestor would, if established, resolve one or more of such issues in favor of the requestor, taking into account uncontested claims or facts to the contrary; and resolution of the factual issues in the manner sought by the requestor would be adequate to justify the action requested (40 CFR 178.32). Information submitted in connection with an objection or hearing request may be claimed confidential by marking any part or all of that information as CBI. Information so marked will not be disclosed except in accordance with procedures set forth in 40 CFR part 2. A copy of the information that does not contain CBI must be submitted for inclusion in the public record. Information not marked confidential may be disclosed publicly by EPA without prior notice.

II. Public Record and Electronic Submissions

The official record for this rulemaking, as well as the public version, as described above will be kept in paper form. Accordingly, EPA will transfer any copies of objections and hearing requests received electronically into printed, paper form as they are received and will place the paper copies in the official rulemaking record which will also include all comments submitted directly in writing. The official rulemaking record is the paper record maintained at the Virginia address in "ADDRESSES" at the beginning of this document.

Electronic comments may be sent directly to EPA at: opp-docket@epamail.epa.gov.

Electronic objections and hearing requests must be submitted as an ASCII file avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption. Objections and hearing requests will also be accepted on disks in WordPerfect 5.1/6.1 or ASCII file format. All copies of objections and hearing requests in electronic form must be identified by the docket control number OPP-300630. No CBI should be submitted through e-mail. Electronic copies of objections and hearing requests on this rule may be filed online at many Federal Depository Libraries.

III. Regulatory Assessment Requirements

This final rule extends a time-limited tolerance that was previously extended by EPA under FFDCA section 408(d) in response to a petition submitted to the Agency. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has exempted these types of actions from review under Executive Order 12866, entitled Regulatory Planning and Review (58 FR 51735, October 4, 1993). In addition, this final rule does not contain any information collections subject to OMB approval under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA), 44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*, or impose any enforceable duty or contain any unfunded mandate as described under Title II of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (UMRA) (Pub. L. 104-4). Nor does it require any prior consultation as specified by Executive Order 12875, entitled Enhancing the Intergovernmental Partnership (58 FR 58093, October 28, 1993), or special considerations as required by Executive Order 12898, entitled Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations (59 FR 7629, February 16, 1994), or require OMB review in accordance with Executive Order 13045, entitled Protection of Children from Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks (62 FR 19885, April 23, 1997).

Since this extension of an existing time-limited tolerance does not require the issuance of a proposed rule, the requirements of the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA) (5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*) do not apply. Nevertheless, the Agency has previously assessed whether establishing tolerances, exemptions from tolerances, raising tolerance levels or expanding exemptions might adversely impact small entities and concluded, as a generic matter, that there is no adverse economic impact. The factual basis for the Agency's generic certification for tolerance actions published on May 4, 1981 (46 FR 24950), and was provided to the Chief Counsel for Advocacy of the Small Business Administration.

IV. Submission to Congress and the Comptroller General

The Congressional Review Act, 5 U.S.C. 801 *et seq.*, as added by the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996, generally provides that before a rule may take effect, the Agency promulgating the rule must submit a rule report, which includes a copy of the rule, to each House of the Congress and to the Comptroller General of the United States. EPA will submit a report containing this rule and other

required information to the U.S. Senate, the U.S. House of Representatives, and the Comptroller General of the United States prior to publication of this rule in the **Federal Register**. This rule is not a "major rule" as defined by 5 U.S.C. 804(2).

List of Subjects in 40 CFR Part 180

Environmental protection, Administrative practice and procedure, Agricultural commodities, Pesticides and pests, Reporting and record keeping requirements.

Dated: March 19, 1998.

James Jones,

Director, Registration Division, Office of Pesticide Programs.

Therefore, 40 CFR chapter I is amended as follows:

PART 180 -- [AMENDED]

1. The authority citation for part 180 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 21 U.S.C. 346a and 371.

§ 180.442 [Amended]

2. In § 180.442, by amending the tolerance listed for "Vegetables, Cucurbits" in the table under paragraph (b) by changing the expiration date "4/30/98" to read "4/30/99".

[FR Doc. 98-8216 Filed 3-31-98; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Part 716

[OPPTS-42188B; FRL-5750-4]

RIN 2070-AD17

Revisions to Reporting Regulations Under TSCA Section 8(d)

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Direct final rule.

SUMMARY: As a part of EPA's 1994 regulatory review, the reporting requirements under section 8(d) of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) were reviewed for burden reduction opportunities. As a result of this review, EPA is revising its TSCA section 8(d) health and safety data reporting rule that requires chemical manufacturers (including importers) and processors of listed substances and listed mixtures to report unpublished health and safety studies. Revisions include changes to the categories of persons required to report, the types of studies and the

grade/purity of the substance for which reporting is required, the reporting period, and the measure of adequacy of the file search needed to comply with the requirements of TSCA section 8(d). Additionally, EPA is amending the sunset date for all chemical substances and mixtures listed in 40 CFR 716.120, for which reporting is currently required. Furthermore, because of this change in the reporting period, EPA will no longer conduct a biennial review of the chemical substances and mixtures listed in 40 CFR 716.120. The Agency's goal is to streamline the reporting requirements while maintaining the ability to protect human health and the environment through the collection of data regarding potential risks.

DATES: *Effective date:* June 30, 1998.

Comment date: All comments must be received by EPA by May 1, 1998. If EPA receives adverse comments to this direct final rule by May 1, 1998, EPA will issue a notice to withdraw this direct final rule and seek comment on the issue raised. After considering the comments submitted, EPA will respond to comments received in a final rule that is published in the **Federal Register**. If no adverse comments to this direct final rule are received, this rule will become effective as a final rule on the date specified above.

ADDRESSES: Each comment must bear the docket control number OPPTS-42188B. All comments should be sent in triplicate to: OPPT Document Control Officer (7407), Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW., Room G-099, East Tower, Washington, DC 20460.

Comments and data may also be submitted electronically to: oppt.ncic@epamail.epa.gov. Follow the instructions under Unit IV. of this document. No Confidential Business Information (CBI) should be submitted through e-mail.

All comments which contain information claimed as CBI must be clearly marked as such. Three sanitized copies of any comments containing information claimed as CBI must also be submitted and will be placed in the public record for this rulemaking. Persons submitting information on any portion of which they believe is entitled to treatment as CBI by EPA must assert a business confidentiality claim in accordance with 40 CFR 2.203(b) for each such portion. This claim must be made at the time that the information is submitted to EPA. If a submitter does not assert a confidentiality claim at the time of submission, EPA will consider this as a waiver of any confidentiality claim and the information may be made

available to the public by EPA without further notice to the submitter.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Susan B. Hazen, Director, Environmental Assistance Division (7408), Rm. ET-543B, Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics, USEPA, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460; telephone: (202) 554-1404; TDD: (202) 554-0551; e-mail: TSCA-Hotline@epamail.epa.gov. For specific information regarding this rule, contact Keith Cronin, Project Manager, Chemical Control Division (7405), Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460; telephone: (202) 260-8157; fax: (202) 260-1096; e-mail: cronin.keith@epamail.epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Electronic Availability:

Internet

Electronic copies of this document are available from the EPA Home Page at the Federal Register - Environmental Documents entry for this document under "Laws and Regulations" (<http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/TOX/>).

Fax on Demand

Using a faxphone call 202-401-0527 and select item 4301 for a copy of this document and select item 4057 for a copy of 40 CFR 716.120 revised in its entirety.

Regulated persons. Potentially regulated persons are those that manufacture (including import) or process chemical substances and mixtures. Regulated categories and entities include:

Category	Examples of regulated persons
Industry	Chemical manufacturers (including importers), chemical processors, and petroleum refiners.

This table is not exhaustive, but lists the types of persons that could potentially be regulated by this action. Other types of persons may also be regulated. To determine whether a person is regulated by this action, carefully examine the applicability criteria in 40 CFR part 716. If you have questions regarding the applicability of this action to a particular person, consult the person listed under "FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT" at the beginning of this document.

EPA believes this revised rule will significantly decrease the reporting burden by eliminating many of the file