

Federal Maritime Commission applications for licenses as ocean freight forwarders pursuant to section 19 of the Shipping Act of 1984 (46 U.S.C. app. 1718 and 46 CFR 510).

Persons knowing of any reason why any of the following applicants should not receive a license are requested to contact the Office of Freight Forwarders, Federal Maritime Commission, Washington, DC 20573.

Cargo Systems Int'l, Corp., 9550 NW 12th Street, Bay #10, Miami, FL 33172, Officers: Francisco J. Nunez, President, Angela C. Damasio, Vice President

Linda Yumi Matsuura, 2615 Plaza Del Amo #600, Torrance, CA 90503, Sole Proprietor

Dated: April 13, 1998.

**Joseph C. Polking,**  
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98-10075 Filed 4-5-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6730-01-M

## FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

### Disclosure Requirements and Prohibitions Concerning Franchising and Business Opportunity Ventures

**AGENCY:** Federal Trade Commission.

**ACTION:** Invitation to Comment on Requested Exemption from Trade Regulation Rule.

**SUMMARY:** The Commission is requesting public comment with respect to a request from Navistar International Transportation Corporation for an exemption from the requirements of the Franchise Rule.

**DATES:** Written comments will be accepted until June 15, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments may be filed in person or mailed to: Secretary, Federal Trade Commission, 6th and Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20580. Requests for copies of the petition and the Franchise Rule should be directed to the Public Reference Branch, Room 130, (202) 326-2222.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Myra Howard, Attorney, PC-H-238, Federal Trade Commission, 6th and Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20580, (202) 326-2047.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On December 21, 1978, the Federal Trade Commission promulgated a trade regulation rule entitled "Disclosure Requirements and Prohibitions Concerning Franchising and Business Opportunity Ventures" (16 CFR Part

436) ("the Rule"). In general, the Rule provides for pre-sale disclosure to prospective franchisees of important information about the franchisor, the franchise business and the terms of the proposed franchise relationship. A summary of the Rule is available from the FTC Public Reference Branch, Room 130, upon request.

Section 18(g) of the Federal Trade Commission Act provides that any person or class of persons covered by a trade regulation rule may petition the Commission for an exemption from such rule, and if the Commission finds that the application of such rule to any person or class of persons is not necessary to prevent the unfair or deceptive act or practice to which the rule relates, the Commission may exempt such person or class from all or any part of the rule.

Navistar International Transportation Corporation ("Navistar" or "Petitioner") has filed a petition for exemption from the Franchise rule pursuant to Section 18(g) of the Federal Trade Commission Act, 15 U.S.C. 57a(g). Navistar's petition asserts without elaboration that its dealer operations are not subject to the Franchise Rule. The information submitted in support of the petition, however, demonstrates that absent an exemption, Navistar's dealer operations fall within the scope of the Rule.<sup>1</sup>

Petitioner asserts that an exemption should be granted because Navistar dealers are sophisticated business persons with experience in the industry, and the information-exchange and negotiation process leading to execution of a dealership agreement takes place over a period of from four months to a year, ensuring adequate time for review. Petitioner also explains that "[b]ecause it is in Navistar's best interest to have strong, committed and well-financed dealers, Navistar encourages its dealers to become fully informed prior to making a commitment." Pet. at 11. Petitioner argues that the experience and sophistication of prospective dealers, the company's selectivity generated by its interest in ensuring that its dealers will be committed and well-financed and the extended process leading to the execution of dealership agreements make the abuses identified by the Commission as the basis for the Franchise Rule unlikely and render

<sup>1</sup> Navistar distributes goods associated with its trade name or mark (16 CFR 436.2(a)(1)(i)(A)); Navistar exerts significant control over, or gives significant assistance to, the dealer (16 CFR 436.2(a)(1)(i)(B)); and Navistar requires its dealers to pay it over \$500 within six months of the commencement of the dealer's business (16 CFR 436.2(a)(3)(iii)). See Petition and Letter from Navistar counsel to Myra Howard, Esq., FTC, dated December 8, 1997 (available on FTC public record).

application of the Rule to Navistar unnecessary and burdensome.

For a complete presentation of the arguments submitted by Petitioner, please refer to the full text of the petition, which may be obtained from the FTC Public Reference Branch, Room 130, on request.

In assessing the present exemption request, the Commission solicits comments on all relevant issues germane to the proceeding, including the following: (1) Is there evidence indicating that Petitioner may engage in unfair or deceptive acts or practices in the offer and sale of truck franchises? (2) Are there other reasons that might militate against granting Petitioner an exemption from the Franchise Rule?

The Commission has considered the arguments made by Petitioner and concluded that further inquiry is warranted before a decision regarding the petition may be made. The Commission, therefore, seeks comment on the exemption requested by Petitioner.

All interested parties are hereby notified that they may submit written data, views or arguments on any issues of fact, law or policy that may have some bearing on the requested exemption, whether or not such issues have been raised by the petition or in this notice. Such submissions may be made for sixty days to the Secretary of the Commission.

Comments should be identified as "Navistar Franchise Rule Exemption Comment," and two copies should be submitted.

By direction of the Commission.

**Benjamin I. Berman,**  
Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98-10079 Filed 4-15-98; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### Food and Drug Administration

[Docket No. 98C-0212]

### Cyanotech Corp.; Filing of Color Additive Petition

**AGENCY:** Food and Drug Administration, HHS.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is announcing that Cyanotech Corp. has filed a petition proposing that the color additive regulations be amended to provide for the safe use of *Haematococcus algae*

meal as a color additive in salmonid fish feeds.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Aydin Örtan, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (HFS-215), Food and Drug Administration, 200 C St. SW., Washington, DC 20204, 202-418-3076.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (sec. 721(d)(1) (21 U.S.C. 379e(d)(1))), notice is given that a color additive petition (CAP 8C0256) has been filed by Cyanotech Corp., 73-4460 Queen Kaahumanu Hwy., #102, Kailua-Kona, HI 96740. The petition proposes to amend the color additive regulations to provide for the safe use of *Haematococcus algae* meal as a color additive in salmonid fish feeds.

-The agency has determined under 21 CFR 25.32(r) that this action is of a type that does not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment. Therefore, neither an environmental assessment nor an environmental impact statement is required.

Dated: March 20, 1998.

**Laura M. Tarantino,**

*Office of Premarket Approval, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition.*

[FR Doc. 98-10032 Filed 4-15-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4160-01-F

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

**Food and Drug Administration**

[Docket No. 98F-0226]

**Nalco Chemical Co.; Filing of Food Additive Petition**

**AGENCY:** Food and Drug Administration, HHS.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is announcing that Nalco Chemical Co. has filed a petition proposing that the food additive regulations be amended to provide for the safe use of disodium or dipotassium fluorescein for use in boilers where steam may contact food.

**DATES:** Written comments on the petitioner's environmental assessment by May 18, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit written comments to the Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305), Food and Drug Administration, 12420 Parklawn Dr., rm. 1-23, Rockville, MD 20857.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Paulette M. Gaynor, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (HFS-215), Food and Drug Administration,

200 C St. SW., Washington, DC 20204, 202-418-3079.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (sec. 409(b)(5) (21 U.S.C. 348(b)(5))), notice is given that a food additive petition (FAP 7A4539) has been filed by Nalco Chemical Co., One Nalco Center, Naperville, IL 60563-1168. The petition proposes to amend the food additive regulations in 21 CFR 173.310 to provide for the safe use of disodium or dipotassium fluorescein for use in boilers where steam may contact food.

The potential environmental impact of this action is being reviewed. To encourage public participation consistent with regulations promulgated under the National Environmental Policy Act (40 CFR 1501.4(b)), the agency is placing the environmental assessment submitted with the petition that is the subject of this notice on public display at the Dockets Management Branch (address above) for public review and comment. Interested persons may, on or before May 18, 1998, submit to the Dockets Management Branch (address above) written comments. Two copies of any comments are to be submitted, except that individuals may submit one copy. Comments are to be identified with the docket number found in brackets in the heading of this document. Received comments may be seen in the office above between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. FDA will also place on public display any amendments to, or comments on, the petitioner's environmental assessment without further announcement in the **Federal Register**. If, based on its review, the agency finds that an environmental impact statement is not required and this petition results in a regulation, the notice of availability of the agency's finding of no significant impact and the evidence supporting that finding will be published with the regulation in the **Federal Register** in accordance with 21 CFR 25.40(c).

Dated: March 26, 1998.

**Laura M. Tarantino,**

*Acting Director, Office of Premarket Approval, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition.*

[FR Doc. 98-10031 Filed 4-15-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4160-01-F

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

**Food and Drug Administration**

**Research Studies on Microbiological Hazards Associated with the Food Animal Production Environment Including Animal Feeds; Availability of Cooperative Agreements; Request for Applications**

**AGENCY:** Food and Drug Administration, HHS.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM) is announcing the availability of research funds for fiscal year (FY) 1998 to study the microbiological hazards associated with the food animal production environment which includes animal feeds. Approximately \$1 million will be available in FY 1998. FDA anticipates making 6 to 12 Cooperative Agreement awards at \$100,000 to \$200,000 per award per year (direct and indirect costs). Support for these agreements may be for up to 3 years. The number of agreements funded will depend on the quality of the applications received and the availability of Federal funds to support the projects.

**DATES:** Submit applications by June 1, 1998. If the closing date falls on a weekend, it will be extended to Monday; if the date falls on a holiday, it will be extended to the following workday.

**ADDRESSES:** Application forms are available from, and completed applications should be submitted to: Robert L. Robins, Grants Management Officer, Division of Contracts and Procurement Management (HFA-520), Food and Drug Administration, 5600 Fishers Lane, Park Bldg., rm. 3-40, Rockville, MD 20857, 301-443-6170. (Applications hand-carried or commercially delivered should be addressed to the Park Bldg., 12420 Parklawn Dr., rm. 3-40, Rockville, MD 20852.)

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Regarding the administrative and financial management aspects of this notice: Robert L. Robins (address above).

Regarding the programmatic aspects of this notice: David B. Batson, Center for Veterinary Medicine (HFV-502), Food and Drug Administration, 8401 Muirkirk Rd., Laurel, MD 20708, 301-827-8021.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** FDA is announcing the availability of funds for FY 1998 for awarding cooperative