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(8) In the event that the same RIN is transferred to two or more parties, all such RINs will be deemed to be invalid, unless EPA in its sole discretion determines that some portion of these RINs is valid.

(b) In the case of RINs that are invalid, the following provisions apply:

(1) Invalid RINs cannot be used to achieve compliance with the Renewable Volume Obligation of an obligated party or exporter, regardless of the party's good faith belief that the RINs were valid at the time they were acquired.

(2) Upon determination by any party that RINs owned are invalid, the party must adjust their records, reports, and compliance calculations as necessary to reflect the deletion of the invalid RINs.

(3) Any valid RINs remaining after deleting invalid RINs must first be applied to correct the transfer of invalid RINs to another party before applying the valid RINs to meet the party's Renewable Volume Obligation at the end of the compliance year.

[72 FR 23995, May 1, 2007, as amended at 74 FR 29952, June 24, 2009]

§ 80.1132 Reported spillage or disposal of renewable fuel.

(a) A reported spillage or disposal under this subpart means a spillage or disposal of renewable fuel associated with a requirement by a federal, state or local authority to report the spillage or disposal.

(b) Except as provided in paragraph (c) of this section, in the event of a reported spillage or disposal of any volume of renewable fuel, the owner of the renewable fuel must retire a number of gallon-RINs corresponding to the volume of spilled or disposed of renewable fuel multiplied by the lesser of its equivalence value or the number of RINs received with the spilled or disposed fuel, not to exceed 2.5 RINs per gallon.

(1) If the equivalence value for the spilled volume may be determined pursuant to § 80.1115 based on its composition, then the appropriate equivalence value shall be used.

(2) If the equivalence value for a spilled volume of renewable fuel cannot

be determined, the equivalence value shall be 1.0.

(c) If the owner of a volume of renewable fuel that is spilled or disposed of and reported establishes that no RINs were generated to represent the volume, then no gallon-RINs shall be retired.

(d) A RIN that is retired under paragraph (b) of this section:

(1) Must be reported as a retired RIN in the applicable reports under § 80.1152.

(2) May not be transferred to another party or used by any obligated party to demonstrate compliance with the party's Renewable Volume Obligation.

[72 FR 23995, May 1, 2007, as amended at 73 FR 57256, Oct. 2, 2008]

§§ 80.1133–80.1140 [Reserved]

§ 80.1141 Small refinery exemption.

(a)(1) Gasoline produced at a refinery by a refiner, or foreign refiner (as defined at § 80.1165(a)), is exempt from the renewable fuel standards of § 80.1105 and the requirements that apply to obligated parties under this subpart if that refinery meets the definition of a small refinery under § 80.1101(g) for calendar year 2004.

(2) This exemption shall apply through December 31, 2010, unless a refiner chooses to waive this exemption (as described in paragraph (f) of this section), or the exemption is extended (as described in paragraph (e) of this section).

(3) For the purposes of this section, the term "refiner" shall include foreign refiners.

(4) This exemption shall only apply to refineries that process crude oil, or feedstocks derived from crude oil, through refinery processing units.

(b)(1) The small refinery exemption is effective immediately, except as specified in paragraph (b)(4) of this section.

(2) A refiner owning a small refinery must submit a verification letter to EPA containing all of the following information:

(i) The annual average aggregate daily crude oil throughput for the period January 1, 2004, through December 31, 2004 (as determined by dividing the aggregate throughput for the calendar year by the number 365).

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(ii) A letter signed by the president, chief operating or chief executive officer of the company, or his/her designee, stating that the information contained in the letter is true to the best of his/her knowledge, and that the refinery was small as of December 31, 2004.

(iii) Name, address, phone number, facsimile number, and e-mail address of a corporate contact person.

(3) Verification letters must be submitted by August 31, 2007, to one of the addresses listed in paragraph (h) of this section.

(4) For foreign refiners the small refinery exemption shall be effective upon approval, by EPA, of a small refinery application. The application must contain all of the elements required for small refinery verification letters (as specified in paragraph (b)(2) of this section), must satisfy the provisions of §80.1165(f) through (h) and (o), and must be submitted by August 31, 2007 to one of the addresses listed in paragraph (h) of this section.

(c) If EPA finds that a refiner provided false or inaccurate information regarding a refinery's crude throughput (pursuant to paragraph (b)(2)(i) of this section) in its small refinery verification letter, the exemption will be void as of the effective date of these regulations.

(d) If a refiner is complying on an aggregate basis for multiple refineries, any such refiner may exclude from the calculation of its Renewable Volume Obligation (under §80.1107(a)) gasoline from any refinery receiving the small refinery exemption under paragraph (a) of this section.

(e)(1) The exemption period in paragraph (a) of this section shall be extended by the Administrator for a period of not less than two additional years if a study by the Secretary of Energy determines that compliance with the requirements of this subpart would impose a disproportionate economic hardship on the small refinery.

(i) A refiner may at any time petition the Administrator for an extension of its small refinery exemption under paragraph (a) of this section for the reason of disproportionate economic hardship.

(ii) A petition for an extension of the small refinery exemption must specify

the factors that demonstrate a disproportionate economic hardship and must provide a detailed discussion regarding the inability of the refinery to produce gasoline meeting the requirements of §80.1105 and the date the refiner anticipates that compliance with the requirements can be achieved at the small refinery.

(2) The Administrator shall act on such a petition not later than 90 days after the date of receipt of the petition.

(f) At any time, a refiner with an approved small refinery exemption under paragraph (a) of this section may waive that exemption upon notification to EPA.

(1) A refiner's notice to EPA that it intends to waive its small refinery exemption must be received by November 1 to be effective in the next compliance year.

(2) The waiver will be effective beginning on January 1 of the following calendar year, at which point the gasoline produced at that refinery will be subject to the renewable fuels standard of §80.1105.

(3) The waiver must be sent to EPA at one of the addresses listed in paragraph (h) of this section.

(g) A refiner that acquires a refinery from either an approved small refiner (as defined under §80.1142(a)) or another refiner with an approved small refinery exemption under paragraph (a) of this section shall notify EPA in writing no later than 20 days following the acquisition.

(h) Verification letters under paragraph (b) of this section, petitions for small refinery hardship extensions under paragraph (e) of this section, and small refinery exemption waivers under paragraph (f) of this section shall be sent to one of the following addresses:

(1) *For U.S. mail:* U.S. EPA—Attn: RFS Program, 6406J, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20460.

(2) *For overnight or courier services:* U.S. EPA, Attn: RFS Program, 6406J, 1310 L Street, NW., 6th floor, Washington, DC 20005.

[72 FR 23999, May 1, 2007, as amended at 73 FR 57256, Oct. 2, 2008]