

(*General Motors Corp. v. FERC*, 656 F.2d 791, 798 n.20 (D.C. Cir. 1981)). Mid-America failed to submit any evidence that creating new standards for lowfat milk and skim milk under the general standard will not promote honesty and fair dealing in the interest of consumers. Because it did not proffer support for its allegations, Mid-America did not justify a hearing on this issue. Therefore, FDA denies the request for a hearing on the second objection.

3. Mid-America cited the agency's desire to reduce the burden of regulation and a need for increased flexibility in at least some standards of identity. At the same time, Mid-America said that none of these facts justify removing the standards for lowfat milk and skim milk that promote honesty and fair dealing in the interest of consumers. As with its second objection, Mid-America maintained that this objection raised several "factual issues" and proceeded to list a series of questions. The questions included: "What do consumers expect when they purchase 'lowfat milk' or 'skim milk'?" "Would honesty and fair dealing in the interest of consumers be promoted if products labeled as 'lowfat milk' and 'skim milk' are permitted to contain any 'safe and suitable ingredients'?"

Mid-America's third objection did not raise any genuine and substantial issue of fact that might be readily resolved by any evidence identified in the objection. Again, the questions posed in support of the objection amount to little more than mere allegations or denials or general description and contentions that, under 21 CFR 12.24(b)(2), will not justify a hearing. Therefore, FDA denies the request for a hearing on this objection.

FDA notes that the letter containing objections and a request for a hearing was filed within the time specified in 21 CFR 12.22(e). However, as noted in section III.1. and III.2. of this document, the objections to the final rule removing the standards for lowfat and skim milk and placing these foods under new standards in 21 CFR 130.10 do not raise genuine and substantial issues of fact for resolution through a public hearing or other procedure as provided for under 21 CFR 12.24, nor did the objections provide any evidence that the November 1996 final rule would not promote honesty and fair dealing in the interest of consumers. Therefore, in accordance with 21 CFR 12.28, FDA is denying Mid-America's requests for a hearing. There were no objections to the November 1996 final rule other than those addressed above.

List of Subjects

21 CFR Part 131

Cream, Food grades and standards, Milk, Yogurt.

21 CFR Part 133

Cheese, Food grades and standards, Food labeling.

Therefore, under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (secs. 201, 401, 403, 409, 701, 721 (21 U.S.C. 321, 341, 343, 348, 371, 379e)) and under authority delegated to the Commissioner of Food and Drugs (21 CFR 5.10), notice is hereby given that the objections received did not justify a hearing, and that the final regulation to amend parts 131 and 133 by removing the standards of identity for various lower-fat milk, sour half-and-half, and cottage cheese products and amending the standard of identity for dry cream, as issued in the Federal Register of November 20, 1996 (61 FR 58991), will become effective on January 1, 1998. Any labels or labeling that require revision as a result of the final regulation must comply no later than January 1, 1998.

Dated: February 14, 1997.
William B. Schultz,
Deputy Commissioner for Policy.
[FR Doc. 97-4365 Filed 2-18-97; 4:10 pm]
BILLING CODE 4160-01-F

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Navy

32 CFR Part 723

Board for Correction of Naval Records

AGENCY: Department of the Navy, DoD.
ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Department of the Navy is amending the Procedures for the Board for Correction of Naval Records. This revision incorporates format changes and clarifies various minor provisions of the part.

DATES: *Effective date:* February 24, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: W. Dean Pfeiffer, Executive Director, Board for Correction of Naval Records, 2 Navy Annex, Washington, DC 20370-5100, (703) 614-1402.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Department of the Navy has determined that this rule is not a major rule because it will not have an annual effect on the economy of \$100 million or more. The Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Manpower and Reserve Affairs) certifies that this rule is exempt from the requirements of the Regulatory

Flexibility Act, 5 U.S.C. 601-611, and does not have a significant economic impact on small entities as defined by the Act. This rule imposes no obligatory information requirements beyond internal Navy use. The proposed rule was published for comment on October 12, 1995, at 60 FR 53153. No comments or objections to the proposed rule were received. The final rule contains no substantive changes from the proposed rule.

List of Subjects in 32 CFR Part 723

Administrative practice and procedure, Claims, Military personnel.

Accordingly, part 723 of chapter VI of title 32 of the Code of Federal Regulations is revised as follows:

PART 723—BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF NAVAL RECORDS

- Sec.
723.1 General provisions.
723.2 Establishment, function and jurisdiction of the Board.
723.3 Application for correction.
723.4 Appearance before the board; notice; counsel; witnesses; access to records.
723.5 Hearing.
723.6 Action by the Board.
723.7 Action by the Secretary.
723.8 Staff action.
723.9 Reconsideration.
723.10 Settlement of claims.
723.11 Miscellaneous provisions.
Authority: 10 U.S.C. 1034, 1552.

§ 723.1 General Provisions.

This part sets up procedures for correction of naval and marine records by the Secretary of the Navy acting through the Board for Correction of Naval Records (BCNR or the Board) to remedy error or injustice. It describes how to apply for correction of naval and marine records and how the BCNR considers applications. It defines the Board's authority to act on applications. It directs collecting and maintaining information subject to the Privacy Act of 1974 authorized by 10 U.S.C. 1034 and 1552.

§ 723.2 Establishment, function and jurisdiction of the Board.

(a) *Establishment and composition.* Under 10 U.S.C. 1034 and 1552, the Board for Correction of Naval Records is established by the Secretary of the Navy. The Board consists of civilians of the executive part of the Department of the Navy in such number, not less than three, as may be appointed by the Secretary and who shall serve at the pleasure of the Secretary. Three members present shall constitute a quorum of the Board. The Secretary of the Navy will designate one member as Chair. In the absence or incapacity of

the Chair, an Acting Chair chosen by the Executive Director shall act as Chair for all purposes.

(b) *Function.* The Board is not an investigative body. Its function is to consider applications properly before it for the purpose of determining the existence of error or injustice in the naval records of current and former members of the Navy and Marine Corps, to make recommendations to the Secretary or to take corrective action on the Secretary's behalf when authorized.

(c) *Jurisdiction.* The Board shall have jurisdiction to review and determine all matters properly brought before it, consistent with existing law.

§ 723.3 Application for correction.

(a) *General requirements.* (1) The application for correction must be submitted on DD 149 (Application for Correction of Military Record) or exact facsimile thereof, and should be addressed to: Board for Correction of Naval Records, Department of the Navy, 2 Navy Annex, Washington, DC 20370-5100. Forms and other explanatory matter may be obtained from the Board upon request.

(2) Except as provided in paragraph (a)(3) of this section, the application shall be signed by the person requesting corrective action with respect to his/her record and will either be sworn to or will contain a provision to the effect that the statements submitted in the application are made with full knowledge of the penalty provided by law for making a false statement or claim. (18 U.S.C. 287 and 1001)

(3) When the record in question is that of a person who is incapable of making application, or whose whereabouts is unknown, or when such person is deceased, the application may be made by a spouse, parent, heir, or legal representative. Proof of proper interest shall be submitted with the application.

(b) *Time limit for filing application.* Applications for correction of a record must be filed within 3 years after discovery of the alleged error or injustice. Failure to file within the time prescribed may be excused by the Board if it finds it would be in the interest of justice to do so. If the application is filed more than 3 years after discovery of the error or injustice, the application must set forth the reason why the Board should find it in the interest of justice to excuse the failure to file the application within the time prescribed.

(c) *Acceptance of applications.* An application will be accepted for consideration unless:

(1) The Board lacks jurisdiction.

(2) The Board lacks authority to grant effective relief.

(3) The applicant has failed to comply with the filing requirements of paragraphs (a)(1), (a)(2), or (a)(3) of this section.

(4) The applicant has failed to exhaust all available administrative remedies.

(5) The applicant has failed to file an application within 3 years after discovery of the alleged error or injustice and has not provided a reason or reasons why the Board should find it in the interest of justice to excuse the failure to file the application within the prescribed 3-year period.

(d) *Other proceedings not stayed.* Filing an application with the Board shall not operate as a stay of any other proceedings being taken with respect to the person involved.

(e) *Consideration of application.* (1) Each application accepted for consideration and all pertinent evidence of record will be reviewed by a three member panel sitting in executive session, to determine whether to authorize a hearing, recommend that the records be corrected without a hearing, or to deny the application without a hearing. This determination will be made by majority vote.

(2) The Board may deny an application in executive session if it determines that the evidence of record fails to demonstrate the existence of probable material error or injustice. The Board relies on a presumption of regularity to support the official actions of public officers and, in the absence of substantial evidence to the contrary, will presume that they have properly discharged their official duties.

Applicants have the burden of overcoming this presumption but the Board will not deny an application solely because the record was made by or at the direction of the President or the Secretary in connection with proceedings other than proceedings of a board for the correction of military or naval records. Denial of an application on the grounds of insufficient evidence to demonstrate the existence of probable material error or injustice is final subject to the provisions for reconsideration contained in § 723.9.

(3) When an original application or a request for further consideration of a previously denied application is denied without a hearing, the Board's determination shall be made in writing and include a brief statement of the grounds for denial.

(4) The brief statement of the grounds for denial shall include the reasons for the determination that relief should not be granted, including the applicant's claims of constitutional, statutory and/

or regulatory violations that were rejected, together with all the essential facts upon which the denial is based, including, if applicable, factors required by regulation to be considered for determination of the character of and reason for discharge. Further the Board shall make a determination as to the applicability of the provisions of the Military Whistleblower Protection Act (10 U.S.C. 1034) if it is invoked by the applicant or reasonably raised by the evidence. Attached to the statement shall be any advisory opinion considered by the Board which is not fully set out in the statement. The applicant will also be advised of reconsideration procedures.

(5) The statement of the grounds for denial, together with all attachments, shall be furnished promptly to the applicant and counsel, who shall also be informed that the name and final vote of each Board member will be furnished or made available upon request. Classified or privileged material will not be incorporated or attached to the Board statement; rather, unclassified or nonprivileged summaries of such material will be so used and written explanations for the substitution will be provided to the applicant and counsel.

§ 723.4 Appearance before the board; notice; counsel; witnesses; access to records.

(a) *General.* In each case in which the Board determines a hearing is warranted, the applicant will be entitled to appear before the Board either in person or by counsel of his/her selection or in person with counsel. Additional provisions apply to cases processed under the Military Whistleblower Protection Act (10 U.S.C. 1034).

(b) *Notice.* (1) In each case in which a hearing is authorized, the Board's staff will transmit to the applicant a written notice stating the time and place of hearing. The notice will be mailed to the applicant, at least 30 days prior to the date of hearing, except that an earlier date may be set where the applicant waives his/her right to such notice in writing.

(2) Upon receipt of the notice of hearing, the applicant will notify the Board in writing at least 15 days prior to the date set for hearing as to whether he/she will be present at the hearing and will indicate to the Board the name of counsel, if represented by counsel, and the names of such witnesses as he/she intends to call. Cases in which the applicant notifies the Board that he/she does not desire to be present at the hearing will be considered in accordance with § 723.5(b)(2).

(c) *Counsel*. As used in this part, the term "counsel" will be construed to include members in good standing of the federal bar or the bar of any state, accredited representatives of veterans' organizations recognized by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs under 38 U.S.C. 3402, or such other persons who, in the opinion of the Board, are considered to be competent to present equitably and comprehensively the request of the applicant for correction, unless barred by law. Representation by counsel will be at no cost to the government.

(d) *Witnesses*. The applicant will be permitted to present witnesses in his/her behalf at hearings before the Board. It will be the responsibility of the applicant to notify his/her witnesses and to arrange for their appearance at the time and place set for hearing. Appearance of witnesses will be at no cost to the government.

(e) *Access to records*. (1) It is the responsibility of the applicant to procure such evidence not contained in the official records of the Department of the Navy as he/she desires to present in support of his/her case.

(2) Classified or privileged information may be released to applicants only by proper authorities in accordance with applicable regulations.

(3) Nothing in this part authorizes the furnishing of copies of official records by the Board. Requests for copies of these records should be submitted in accordance with applicable regulations governing the release of information. The BCNR can provide a requestor with information regarding procedures for requesting copies of these records from the appropriate retention agency.

§ 723.5 Hearing

(a) *Convening of board*. The Board will convene, recess and adjourn at the call of the Chair or Acting Chair.

(b) *Conduct of hearing*. (1) The hearing shall be conducted by the Chair or Acting Chair, and shall be subject to his/her rulings so as to ensure a full and fair hearing. The Board shall not be limited by legal rules of evidence but shall maintain reasonable bounds of competency, relevancy, and materiality.

(2) If the applicant, after being duly notified, indicates to the Board that he/she does not desire to be present or to be represented by counsel at the hearing, the Board will consider the case on the basis of all the material before it, including, but not limited to, the application for correction filed by the applicant, any documentary evidence filed in support of such application, any brief submitted by or in

behalf of the applicant, and all available pertinent records.

(3) If the applicant, after being duly notified, indicates to the Board that he/she will be present or be represented by counsel at the hearing, and without good cause and timely notice to the Board, the applicant or representative fails to appear at the time and place set for the hearing or fails to provide the notice required by § 723.4(b)(2), the Board may consider the case in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (b)(2) of this section, or make such other disposition of the case as is appropriate under the circumstances.

(4) All testimony before the Board shall be given under oath or affirmation. The proceedings of the Board and the testimony given before it will be recorded verbatim.

(c) *Continuance*. The Board may continue a hearing on its own motion. A request for continuance by or in behalf of the applicant may be granted by the Board if a continuance appears necessary to insure a full and fair hearing.

§ 723.6 Action by the Board.

(a) *Deliberations, findings, conclusions, and recommendations*. (1) Only members of the Board and its staff shall be present during the deliberations of the Board.

(2) Whenever, during the course of its review of an application, it appears to the Board's satisfaction that the facts have not been fully and fairly disclosed by the records or by the testimony and other evidence before it, the Board may require the applicant or military authorities to provide such further information as it may consider essential to a complete and impartial determination of the facts and issues.

(3) Following a hearing, or where the Board determines to recommend that the record be corrected without a hearing, the Board will make written findings, conclusions and recommendations. If denial of relief is recommended following a hearing, such written findings and conclusions will include a statement of the grounds for denial as described in § 723.3(e)(4). The name and final vote of each Board member will be recorded. A majority vote of the members present on any matter before the Board will constitute the action of the Board and shall be so recorded.

(4) Where the Board deems it necessary to submit comments or recommendations to the Secretary as to matters arising from but not directly related to the issues of any case, such comments and recommendations shall be the subject of separate

communication. Additionally, in Military Whistleblower Protection Act cases, any recommendation by the Board to the Secretary that disciplinary or administrative action be taken against any Navy official based on the Board's determination that the official took reprisal action against the applicant will not be made part of the Board's record of proceedings or furnished the applicant but will be transmitted to the Secretary as a separate communication.

(b) *Minority report*. In case of a disagreement between members of the Board a minority report will be submitted, either as to the findings, conclusions or recommendation, including the reasons therefor.

(c) *Record of proceedings*. Following a hearing, or where the Board determines to recommend that the record be corrected without a hearing, a record of proceedings will be prepared. Such record shall indicate whether or not a quorum was present, and the name and vote of each member present. The record shall include the application for relief, a verbatim transcript of any testimony, affidavits, papers and documents considered by the Board, briefs and written arguments, advisory opinions, if any, minority reports, if any, the findings, conclusions and recommendations of the Board, where appropriate, and all other papers, documents, and reports necessary to reflect a true and complete history of the proceedings.

(d) *Withdrawal*. The Board may permit an applicant to withdraw his/her application without prejudice at any time before its record of proceedings is forwarded to the Secretary.

(e) *Delegation of authority to correct certain naval records*. (1) With respect to all petitions for relief properly before it, the Board is authorized to take final corrective action on behalf of the Secretary, unless:

(i) Comments by proper naval authority are inconsistent with the Board's recommendation;

(ii) The Board's recommendation is not unanimous; or

(iii) It is in the category of petitions reserved for decision by the Secretary of the Navy.

(2) The following categories of petitions for relief are reserved for decision by the Secretary of the Navy:

(i) Petitions involving records previously reviewed or acted upon by the Secretary wherein the operative facts remained substantially the same;

(ii) Petitions by former commissioned officers or midshipmen to change the character of, and/or the reason for, their discharge; or,

(iii) Such other petitions as, in the determination of Office of the Secretary or the Executive Director, warrant Secretarial review.

(3) The Executive Director after ensuring compliance with this section, will announce final decisions on applications decided under this section.

§ 723.7 Action by the Secretary.

(a) *General.* The record of proceedings, except in cases finalized by the Board under the authority delegated in § 723.6(e), and those denied by the Board without a hearing, will be forwarded to the Secretary who will direct such action as he or she determines to be appropriate, which may include the return of the record to the Board for further consideration. Those cases returned for further consideration shall be accompanied by a brief statement setting out the reasons for such action along with any specific instructions. If the Secretary's decision is to deny relief, such decision shall be in writing and, unless he or she expressly adopts in whole or in part the findings, conclusions and recommendations of the Board, or a minority report, shall include a brief statement of the grounds for denial. See § 723.3(e)(4).

(b) *Military Whistleblower Protection Act.* The Secretary will ensure that decisions in cases involving the Military Whistleblower Protection Act are issued 180 days after receipt of the case and will, unless the full relief requested is granted, inform applicants of their right to request review of the decision by the Secretary of Defense. Applicants will also be informed:

(1) Of the name and address of the official to whom the request for review must be submitted.

(2) That the request for review must be submitted within 90 days after receipt of the decision by the Secretary of the Navy.

(3) That the request for review must be in writing and include:

(i) The applicant's name, address and telephone number;

(ii) A copy of the application to the Board and the final decision of the Secretary of the Navy; and

(iii) A statement of the specific reasons the applicant is not satisfied with the decision of the Secretary of the Navy.

(4) That the request must be based on the Board record; request for review based on factual allegations or evidence not previously presented to the Board will not be considered under this paragraph but may be the basis for reconsideration by the Board under § 723.9.

§ 723.8 Staff action.

(a) *Transmittal of final decisions granting relief.* (1) If the final decision of the Secretary is to grant the applicant's request for relief the record of proceedings shall be returned to the Board for disposition. The Board shall transmit the finalized record of proceedings to proper naval authority for appropriate action. Similarly final decisions of the Board granting the applicant's request for relief under the authority delegated in § 723.6(e), shall also be forwarded to the proper naval authority for appropriate action.

(2) The Board shall transmit a copy of the record of proceedings to the proper naval authority for filing in the applicant's service record except where the effect of such action would be to nullify the relief granted. In such cases no reference to the Board's decision shall be made in the service record or files of the applicant and all copies of the record of proceedings and any related papers shall be forwarded to the Board and retained in a file maintained for this purpose.

(3) The addressees of such decisions shall report compliance therewith to the Executive Director.

(4) Upon receipt of the record of proceedings after final action by the Secretary, or by the Board acting under the authority contained in § 723.6(e), the Board shall communicate the decision to the applicant. The applicant is entitled, upon request, to receive a copy of the Board's findings, conclusions and recommendations.

(b) *Transmittal of final decisions denying relief.* If the final decision of the Secretary or the Board is to deny relief, the following materials will be made available to the applicant:

(1) A statement of the findings, conclusions, and recommendations made by the Board and the reasons therefor;

(2) Any advisory opinions considered by the Board;

(3) Any minority reports; and

(4) Any material prepared by the Secretary as required in § 723.7. Moreover, applicant shall also be informed that the name and final vote of each Board member will be furnished or made available upon request and that he/she may submit new and material evidence or other matter for further consideration.

§ 723.9 Reconsideration.

After final adjudication, further consideration will be granted only upon presentation by the applicant of new and material evidence or other matter not previously considered by the Board. New evidence is defined as evidence

not previously considered by the Board and not reasonably available to the applicant at the time of the previous application. Evidence is material if it is likely to have a substantial effect on the outcome. All requests for further consideration will be initially screened by the Executive Director of the Board to determine whether new and material evidence or other matter (including, but not limited to, any factual allegations or arguments why the relief should be granted) has been submitted by the applicant. If such evidence or other matter has been submitted, the request shall be forwarded to the Board for a decision. If no such evidence or other matter has been submitted, the applicant will be informed that his/her request was not considered by the Board because it did not contain new and material evidence or other matter.

§ 723.10 Settlement of claims.

(a) *Authority.* (1) The Department of the Navy is authorized under 10 U.S.C. 1552 to pay claims for amounts due to applicants as a result of corrections to their naval records.

(2) The Department of the Navy is not authorized to pay any claim heretofore compensated by Congress through enactment of a private law, or to pay any amount as compensation for any benefit to which the claimant might subsequently become entitled under the laws and regulations administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

(b) *Application for settlement.* (1) Settlement and payment of claims shall be made only upon a claim of the person whose record has been corrected or legal representative, heirs at law, or beneficiaries. Such claim for settlement and payment may be filed as a separate part of the application for correction of the record.

(2) When the person whose record has been corrected is deceased, and where no demand is presented by a duly appointed legal representative of the estate, payments otherwise due shall be made to the surviving spouse, heir or beneficiaries, in the order prescribed by the law applicable to that kind of payment, or if there is no such law covering order of payment, in the order set forth in 10 U.S.C. 2771; or as otherwise prescribed by the law applicable to that kind of payment.

(3) Upon request, the applicant or applicants shall be required to furnish requisite information to determine their status as proper parties to the claim for purposes of payment under applicable provisions of law.

(c) *Settlement.* (1) Settlement of claims shall be upon the basis of the decision and recommendation of the

Board, as approved by the Secretary or his designee. Computation of the amounts due shall be made by the appropriate disbursing activity. In no case will the amount found due exceed the amount which would otherwise have been paid or have become due under applicable laws had no error or injustice occurred. Earnings received from civilian employment, self employment or any income protection plan for such employment during any period for which active duty pay and allowances are payable will be deducted from the settlement. To the extent authorized by law and regulation, amounts found due may be reduced by the amount of any existing indebtedness to the Government arising from military service.

(2) Prior to or at the time of payment, the person or persons to whom payments are to be made shall be advised by the disbursing activity of the nature and amount of the various benefits represented by the total settlement and shall be advised further that acceptance of such settlement shall constitute a complete release by the claimants involved of any claim against the United States on account of the correction of the record.

(d) *Report of settlement.* In every case where payment is made, the amount of such payment and the names of the payee or payees shall be reported to the Executive Director.

§ 723.11 Miscellaneous provisions.

(a) *Expenses.* No expenses of any nature whatsoever voluntarily incurred by the applicant, counsel, witnesses, or by any other person in the applicant's behalf, will be paid by the Government.

(b) *Indexing of decisions.* (1) Documents sent to each applicant and counsel in accordance with § 723.3(e)(5) and § 723.8(a)(4), together with the record of the votes of Board members and all other statements of findings, conclusions and recommendations made on final determination of an application by the Board or the Secretary will be indexed and promptly made available for public inspection and copying at the Armed Forces Discharge Review/Correction Boards Reading Room located on the Concourse of the Pentagon Building in Room 2E123, Washington, DC.

(2) All documents made available for public inspection and copying shall be indexed in a usable and concise form so as to enable the public to identify those cases similar in issue together with the circumstances under and/or reasons for which the Board and/or Secretary have granted or denied relief. The index shall be published quarterly and shall be

available for public inspection and distribution by sale at the Reading Room located on the Concourse of the Pentagon Building in Room 2E123, Washington, DC. Inquiries concerning the index or the Reading Room may be addressed to the Chief, Micromation Branch/Armed Forces Discharge Review/Correction Boards Reading Room, Crystal Mall 4, 1941 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, Virginia 22202.

(3) To the extent necessary to prevent a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, identifying details of the applicant and other persons will be deleted from the documents made available for public inspection and copying. Names, addresses, social security numbers and military service numbers must be deleted. Deletions of other information which is privileged or classified may be made only if a written statement of the basis for such deletion is made available for public inspection.

Dated: January 30, 1997.

D.E. Koenig, Jr.,
LCDR, JAGC, USN, Federal Register Liaison
Officer.

[FR Doc. 97-4390 Filed 2-21-97; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 3810-FF-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Part 52

[OH49-1-6072; FRL-5649-6]

Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Ohio Stage II Vapor Recovery Program

AGENCY: Environmental Protection
Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Final rule; Technical
amendment.

SUMMARY: On October 20, 1994, the EPA published a direct final rule partially approving and partially disapproving the Ohio Stage II gasoline vapor recovery program. Subsequent to that publication, EPA approved additional sections of the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) concerning control of volatile organic compounds, including Stage II test methods and a schedule for implementation. This second action inadvertently omitted mention of the OAC rules incorporated by reference in the codification of the October 20, 1994 document. This inadvertent omission of the incorporation by reference of the Stage II gasoline vapor recovery material was unintentional and is being corrected in this document.

EFFECTIVE DATE: February 24, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John Paskevicz, Air Programs Branch, Regulation Development Section (AR-18J), United States Environmental Protection, Region 5, Chicago, Illinois 60604, (312) 886-6084.

Background

On June 13, 1996, the Ohio EPA notified the EPA that a correction was needed to the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) regarding the codification of the Stage II gasoline vapor recovery program. The State noted that a portion of the Federal approval of the Stage II gasoline vapor recovery rules, published in the Federal Register on October 20, 1994 (59 FR 52911), was missing from the CFR. On October 20, 1994, a direct final rule was published (59 FR 52915) which partially approved the Stage II gasoline vapor recovery program for selected areas in the State of Ohio. The direct final rule incorporated by reference Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) rules 3745-21-09(DDD) (1)-(4). This reference was inadvertently omitted from the subsequent publication of a direct final rule in the Federal Register on March 23, 1995 (60 FR 15235). This direct final rule approved OAC Chapter 3745-21, regarding volatile organic compound emissions, and included revisions to 40 CFR 52.1870(c)(104). The EPA action published on March 23, 1995 (60 FR 15240), inadvertently omitted the incorporation by reference of the previous partial approval of State rules requiring Stage II gasoline vapor recovery controls, codified at OAC rules 3745-21-09(DDD) (1)-(4), from its revisions to 40 CFR 52.1870(c)(104).

Action

OAC rules 3745-21-09(DDD)(1)-(4) are hereby incorporated by reference into 40 CFR as § 52.1870(c)(104)(i)(C). This action is prompted by a request from the State of Ohio to correct the CFR to include the reference of this codification.

Administrative Requirements

Under Executive Order 12866 (58 FR 51735, October 4, 1993), this action is not a "significant regulatory action" and, is therefore not subject to review by the Office of Management and Budget. In addition, this action does not impose any enforceable duty or contain any unfunded mandate as described in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-4), or require prior consultation with State officials as specified by Executive Order 12875 (58 FR 58093, October 28, 1993), or involve special consideration of environmental justice related issues as required by