

subpart Q of the Code of Federal Regulations is amended as follows:

PART 63—[AMENDED]

1. The authority citation for part 63 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 42 U.S.C. 7401, *et seq.*

Subpart Q—National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for Industrial Process Cooling Towers

2. Section 63.404 is amended by revising the introductory language and paragraph (b), and by adding new paragraphs (c) and (d) to read as follows:

§ 63.404 Compliance demonstrations.

No routine monitoring, sampling, or analysis is required. In accordance with section 114 of the Act, the Administrator or delegated authority can require cooling water sample analysis of an IPCT if there is information to indicate that the IPCT is not in compliance with the requirements of § 63.402 of this subpart. The owner or operator of an IPCT may demonstrate compliance through recordkeeping in accordance with paragraph (c) of this section in lieu of a water sample analysis. If cooling water sample analysis is required:

(a) * * *

(b) On or after 3 months after the compliance date, a cooling water sample residual hexavalent chromium concentration equal to or less than 0.5 parts per million by weight shall indicate compliance with § 63.402. Alternatively, an owner or operator may demonstrate compliance through record keeping in accordance with paragraph (c).

(c) To demonstrate compliance with § 63.402, in lieu of the water sample analysis provided for in paragraph (a) of this section, the owner or operator of each IPCT may maintain records of water treatment chemical purchases, including invoices and other documentation that includes invoices and other documentation that includes date(s) of purchase or shipment, trade name or other information to identify composition of the product, and quantity of the product.

(d) Following a request, by the Administrator or delegated authority, under paragraph (a) for a water sample analysis, failure to either meet the concentration level specified in paragraph (b) or provide the records specified in paragraph (c) shall indicate a violation of § 63.402.

[FR Doc. 98-19407 Filed 7-22-98; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Part 180

[OPP-300422A; FRL-5799-7]

RIN 2070-AB78

Capsaicin; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: This document establishes an exemption from the requirement of a tolerance for residues of Capsaicin in or on all food commodities, when applied in accordance with approved product labeling and good agricultural practice. This exemption from requirement of a tolerance is being established by the Agency on its own initiative, under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA) as amended by the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA) of 1996. **DATES:** This regulation becomes effective July 23, 1998. Written objections and requests for hearings must be received by September 21, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Written objections and hearing requests, identified by the docket control number [OPP-300422A], 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-300422A], 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, CM #2, 1921 Jefferson Davis Hwy., Arlington, VA.

A copy of objections and hearing requests filed with the Hearing Clerk may be submitted electronically by sending electronic mail (e-mail) to: opp-docket@epamail.epa.gov. Copies of electronic objections and hearing requests must be submitted as an ASCII file avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption. Copies of electronic objections and hearing requests will also be accepted

on disks in WordPerfect 5.1/6.1 or ASCII file format. All copies of electronic objections and hearing requests must be identified by the docket number [OPP-300422A]. No Confidential Business Information (CBI) should be submitted through e-mail. Copies of electronic objections and hearing requests on this rule may be filed online at many Federal Depository Libraries.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: By mail: Richard W. King, Biopesticides and Pollution Prevention Division (7511W), Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St. SW., Washington, DC 20460. Office location, telephone number, and e-mail address: 9th Floor (902W38), CM #2, 1921 Jefferson Davis Hwy., Arlington, VA; (703) 308-8052, e-mail: king.richard@epamail.epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In the **Federal Register** of May 1, 1996 (61 FR 19233) [OPP-300422; FRL-5362-9], EPA proposed, pursuant to section 408(e) of the FFDCA, 21 U.S.C. 346a(d) to amend 40 CFR part 180 by establishing an exemption from the requirement of a tolerance for Capsaicin in or on all food commodities, when applied in accordance with approved product labeling and with good agricultural practice. There were no comments received in response to the proposed rule. Since the date of this proposal, FFDCA section 408 has been significantly amended by the Food Quality Protection Act of 1996 (FQPA). The FQPA amended the safety standard that applies to both tolerances and exemptions from the requirement for tolerance. Nonetheless, the legislative history indicates that the same rigorous safety standard EPA had always imposed as to tolerance exemptions should be the Agency's guide in implementing the new provision. On this specific point, the House Commerce Committee Report states:

The Committee understands that EPA currently issues exemptions only for the pesticide chemical residues that do not pose a dietary risk under reasonably foreseeable circumstances. The Committee intends that EPA retain its current practice. H.Rep. 104-669 part 2, 104th Cong., 2d Sess. 45 (1996). Capsaicin clearly meets this standard. Capsaicin and related capsaicinoids are the ingredients that produce the "hotness" in certain species of peppers in the Genus *Capsicum*. As noted in the proposal, there are no known toxicological concerns from the ingestion of capsaicin and related capsaicinoids. Residues of capsaicin on food will not pose a dietary risk. Thus, EPA concludes that, consistent with the amended section 408, exempting

capsaicin from the requirement is safe in that there is a reasonable certainty that no harm will result from aggregate exposure to capsaicin. This finding applies not only to the general population but also to infants and children as well. Further, EPA has determined that a safety factor analysis is not needed in making its conclusion regarding the safety of capsaicin due to the lack of toxicity of capsaicin. For this reason, EPA concludes that this exemption is safe for infants and children without use of the additional safety factor described in section 408(b)(2)(C). Accordingly, EPA establishes an exemption from tolerance for capsaicin as provided below.

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 September 21, 1998, file written objections to any aspect of 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

EPA has established a record for this rulemaking under docket control number [OPP-300422A] (including any comments and data submitted electronically). A public version of this record, including printed, paper versions of electronic comments, which does not include any information claimed as CBI, is available for inspection from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. The public record is located in Room 119 of the Public Information and Records Integrity Branch, Information Resources and Services Division (7502C), Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, Crystal Mall #2, 1921 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA.

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

Electronic comments must be submitted as an ASCII file avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption. 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 address in "ADDRESSES" at the beginning of this document.

III. Regulatory Assessment Requirements

This action finalizes an exemption from the tolerance requirement under FFDCA section 408(e). 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 special 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).

In addition, under the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA) (5 U.S.C. 601 et seq.), the Agency 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 the 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: July 10, 1998.

Anne E. Lindsay,

Acting Director, 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. Section 180.1165 is added to read as follows:

§ 180.1165 Capsaicin; exemption from the requirement of a tolerance.

Capsaicin is exempt from the requirement of a tolerance in or on all food commodities when used in accordance with approved label rates and good agricultural practice.

[FR Doc. 98-19652 Filed 7-22-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 679

[Docket No. 971208297-8054-02; I.D. 071798A]

Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; "Other Rockfish" in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and

Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Closure.

SUMMARY: NMFS is prohibiting retention of "other rockfish" in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska (GOA). NMFS is requiring that catch of "other rockfish" in this area be treated in the same manner as prohibited species and discarded at sea with a minimum of injury. This action is necessary because the amount of the "other rockfish" 1998 total allowable catch (TAC) in this area has been reached.

DATES: Effective 1200 hrs, Alaska local time (A.l.t.), July 19, 1998, until 2400 hrs, A.l.t., December 31, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mary Furuness, 907-586-7228.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: NMFS manages the groundfish fishery in the GOA exclusive economic zone according to the Fishery Management Plan for the Groundfish Fishery of the Gulf of Alaska (FMP) prepared by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council under authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Regulations governing fishing by U.S. vessels in accordance with the FMP appear at subpart H of 50 CFR part 600 and CFR part 679.

In accordance with § 679.20(c)(3)(ii), the Final 1998 Harvest Specifications of Groundfish for the GOA (63 FR 12027, March 12, 1998) established the amount of the 1998 "other rockfish" TAC in the Central Regulatory Area of the GOA as 650 metric tons (mt).

In accordance with § 679.20(d)(2), the Administrator, Alaska Region, NMFS, has determined that the amount of the "other rockfish" TAC in the Central Regulatory Area of the GOA has been reached. Therefore, NMFS is requiring that further catches of "other rockfish" in the Central Regulatory Area of the GOA be treated as prohibited species in accordance with § 679.21(b).

Classification

This action responds to the best available information recently obtained from the fishery. It must be implemented immediately to prevent overharvesting the amount of the "other rockfish" TAC in the Central Regulatory Area of the GOA. A delay in the effective date is impracticable and contrary to the public interest. The fleet has taken the amount of the "other rockfish" TAC in the Central Regulatory Area. Further delay would only result in overharvest. NMFS finds for good cause that the implementation of this action cannot be delayed for 30 days. Accordingly, under 5 U.S.C. 553(d), a delay in the effective date is hereby waived.

This action is required by § 679.20 and is exempt from review under E.O. 12866.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: July 17, 1998.

Richard W. Surdi,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 98-19547 Filed 7-17-98; 4:20 pm]

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