

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
AGENCY**
40 CFR Part 52
[CA 210-0103b; FRL-6185-2]
**Approval and Promulgation of State
Implementation Plans; California State
Implementation Plan Revision,
Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality
Management District**
AGENCY: Environmental Protection
Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: EPA is approving revisions to the California State Implementation Plan (SIP). This action is an administrative change which revises the definition of volatile organic compound (VOC) and updates the Exempt Compound list in rules from the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (SMAQMD).

The intended effect of proposing approval of this action is to incorporate changes to the definition of VOC and to update the Exempt Compound list in SMAQMD rules to be consistent with the revised federal and state VOC definitions. EPA is proposing approval of these revisions to be incorporated into the California SIP for the attainment of the national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) for ozone under title I of the Clean Air Act (CAA or the Act). In the Final Rules Section of this **Federal Register**, the EPA is approving the state's SIP submittal as a direct final rule without prior proposal because the Agency views this as a noncontroversial revision and anticipates no adverse comments. A detailed rationale for this approval is set forth in the direct final rule. If no adverse comments are received, no further activity is contemplated. If EPA receives adverse comments, the direct final rule will be withdrawn and all public comments received will be addressed in a subsequent final rule based on this proposed rule. The EPA will not institute a second comment period. Any parties interested in commenting should do so at this time.

DATES: Written comments must be received by December 9, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be addressed to: Andrew Steckel, Chief, Rulemaking Office (AIR-4), Air Division, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX, 75 Hawthorne Street, San Francisco, CA 94105-3901.

Copies of the rule revisions and EPA's evaluation report of each rule are available for public inspection at EPA's Region 9 office during normal business

hours. Copies of the submitted rule revisions are also available for inspection at the following locations:

California Air Resources Board, Stationary Source Division, Rule Evaluation Section, 2020 "L" Street, Sacramento, CA 95812
Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District, 8411 Jackson Rd., Sacramento, CA 95826

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Cynthia G. Allen, Rulemaking Office [Air-4], Air Division, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9, 75 Hawthorne Street, San Francisco, CA 94105-3901, Telephone: (415) 744-1189)

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This document concerns Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District Rule 101, General Provisions and Definitions; Rule 442, Architectural Coatings; Rule 443, Leaks From Synthetic Organic Chemical and Polymer Manufacturing; Rule 447, Organic Liquid Loading; Rule 452, Can Coating; Rule 456, Aerospace Assembly and Component Coating Operations; Rule 458, Large Commercial Bread Bakeries. These rules were submitted to EPA on May 18, 1998 by the California Air Resources Board. For further information, please see the information provided in the direct final action that is located in the rules section of this **Federal Register**.

Dated: October 26, 1998.

Sally Seymour,

Acting Regional Administrator, Region IX.
[FR Doc. 98-29966 Filed 11-6-98; 8:45 am]

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**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS
AFFAIRS**
**48 CFR Parts 801, 806, 812, 837, 852,
and 873**
RIN 2900-AI71
**VA Acquisition Regulations: Simplified
Acquisition Procedures for Health Care
Resources**

AGENCY: Department of Veterans Affairs.
ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: This document proposes to amend the Department of Veterans Affairs Acquisition Regulations (VAAR) to establish simplified procedures for the competitive acquisition of health-care resources, consisting of commercial services or the use of medical equipment or space, pursuant to 38 U.S.C. 8151-8153. Presently, the VAAR does not contain simplified procedures. In the absence of such procedures, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)

follows the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) and the current VAAR. Public Law 104-262, the Veterans' Health Care Eligibility Reform Act of 1996, authorized VA to prescribe simplified procedures for the procurement of health-care resources. This proposed rule prescribes those procedures.

DATES: Comments on the proposed rule should be submitted on or before January 8, 1999, to be considered in the formulation of the final rule.

ADDRESSES: Mail or hand-deliver written comments to: Director, Office of Regulations Management (O2D), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Room 1154, Washington, DC 20420. Comments should indicate that they are submitted in response to "RIN 2900-AI71." All written comments received will be available for public inspection at the above address in the Office of Regulations Management, Room 1158, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday (except holidays).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dennis Foley, (202) 273-9225, Office of the General Counsel, Professional Staff Group V; or Don Kaliher, (202) 273-8819, Acquisition Resources Service, Office of Acquisition and Materiel Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20420.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Currently, the acquisition of health-care resources that consist of commercial services or the use of medical equipment or space is governed by the Department of Veterans Affairs Acquisition Regulations (VAAR) and the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR). Statutory provisions at 38 U.S.C. 8153 (Pub. L. 104-262) specifically authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, after consultation with the Administrator for Federal Procurement Policy, to establish simplified procedures for the competitive procurement of such health-care resources. VA has consulted with the Administrator for Federal Procurement Policy and VA proposes to establish simplified procedures as set forth in this document.

Under the provisions of the law, procurements under the simplified procedures may be conducted "without regard to any law or regulation that would otherwise require the use of competitive procedures." Accordingly, the competitive procedures of any laws and regulations (including the competitive procedures of FAR and VAAR and their underlying laws) would be superseded by the simplified