

this document may be filed online at many Federal Depository Libraries. Information claimed as CBI should not be submitted electronically.

V. Regulatory Assessment Requirements

A. Certain Acts and Executive Orders

EPA's actions on State or Tribal lead-based paint activities program applications are informal adjudications, not rules. Therefore, the requirements of the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA, 5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*), the Congressional Review Act (5 U.S.C. 801 *et seq.*), Executive Order 12866 ("Regulatory Planning and Review," 58 FR 51735, October 4, 1993), and Executive Order 13045 ("Protection of Children from Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks," 62 FR 1985, April 23, 1997), do not apply to this action. This action does not contain any Federal mandates, and therefore is not subject to the requirements of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (2 U.S.C. 1531-1538). In addition, this action does not contain any information collection requirements and therefore does not require review or approval by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*).

B. Executive Order 12875

Under Executive Order 12875, entitled "Enhancing Intergovernmental Partnerships" (58 FR 58093, October 28, 1993), EPA may not issue a regulation that is not required by statute and that creates a mandate upon a State, local, or Tribal government, unless the Federal government provides the funds necessary to pay the direct compliance costs incurred by those governments. If the mandate is unfunded, EPA must provide to OMB a description of the extent of EPA's prior consultation with representatives of affected State, local, and Tribal governments, the nature of their concerns, copies of any written communications from the governments, and a statement supporting the need to issue the regulation. In addition, Executive Order 12875 requires EPA to develop an effective process permitting elected officials and other representatives of State, local, and Tribal governments "to provide meaningful and timely input in the development of regulatory proposals containing significant unfunded mandates." Today's action does not create an unfunded Federal mandate on State, local, or Tribal governments. This action does not impose any enforceable duties on these entities. Accordingly, the requirements of section 1(a) of

Executive Order 12875 do not apply to this action.

C. Executive Order 13084

Under Executive Order 13084, entitled "Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments" (63 FR 27655, May 19, 1998), EPA may not issue a regulation that is not required by statute, that significantly or uniquely affects the communities of Indian tribal governments, and that imposes substantial direct compliance costs on those communities, unless the Federal government provides the funds necessary to pay the direct compliance costs incurred by the Tribal governments. If the mandate is unfunded, EPA must provide OMB, in a separately identified section of the preamble to the rule, a description of the extent of EPA's prior consultation with representatives of affected Tribal governments, a summary of the nature of their concerns, and a statement supporting the need to issue the regulation. In addition, Executive Order 13084 requires EPA to develop an effective process permitting elected and other representatives of Indian tribal governments "to provide meaningful and timely input in the development of regulatory policies on matters that significantly or uniquely affect their communities." Today's action does not significantly or uniquely affect the communities of Indian tribal governments. This action does not involve or impose any requirements that affect Indian Tribes. Accordingly, the requirements of section 3(b) of Executive Order 13084 do not apply to this action.

Authority: 15 U.S.C. 2682, 2684.

List of Subjects

Environmental protection, Hazardous substances, Lead, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

Dated: April 6, 1999.

John P. DeVillars,

Regional Administrator, Region I.

[FR Doc. 99-9476 Filed 4-15-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-F

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[PB-402404-TX; FRL-6073-6]

Lead; Requirements for Lead-Based Paint Activities in Target Housing and Child-Occupied Facilities; State of Texas's Authorization Application

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice; request for comments and opportunity for a public hearing.

SUMMARY: On March 18, 1999, the State of Texas submitted an application for EPA approval to administer and enforce training and certification requirements, training program accreditation requirements, and work practice standards for lead-based paint activities in target housing and child-occupied facilities under section 402 of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA). This notice announces the receipt of Texas's application, and provides a 45-day public comment period and an opportunity to request a public hearing on the application. Texas has provided a certification that their program meets the requirements for approval of a State program under section 404 of TSCA. Therefore, pursuant to section 404, the program is deemed authorized as of the date of submission. If EPA finds that the program does not meet the requirements for approval of a State program, EPA will disapprove the program, at which time a notice will be issued in the **Federal Register** and the Federal program will be established.

DATES: The State program became effective March 18, 1999. Submit comments on the authorization application on or before June 1, 1999.

Public hearing requests must be submitted on or before May 3, 1999. If a public hearing is requested and granted, the hearing will be held on May 14, 1999, 1 p.m., at the United States Environmental Protection Agency, 1445 Ross Avenue (Fountain Place), Dallas, TX. If a public hearing is not requested, this meeting time and place will be canceled. Therefore, individuals are advised to verify the status of the public hearing by contacting the Regional Lead Coordinator (name, telephone number, and address are provided in the "FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT" section of this notice) after May 3, 1999 and before the May 14, 1999 public hearing date.

ADDRESSES: Submit all written comments and/or requests for a public hearing identified by docket number "PB-402404-TX" (in duplicate) to: Environmental Protection Agency, Region VI, 6PD-T, 1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200, Dallas, TX 75202-2733.

Comments, data, and requests for a public hearing may also be submitted electronically to robinson.jeffrey@epamail.epa.gov. Follow the instructions under Unit IV of this document. No Confidential Business Information (CBI) should be submitted through e-mail.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Jeffrey Robinson, Regional Lead Coordinator, Environmental Protection Agency, Region VI, 1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200, 6PD-T, Dallas, TX 75202-2733. Telephone: 214-665-7577, e-mail address: robinson.jeffrey@epamail.epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**I. Background**

On October 28, 1992, the Housing and Community Development Act of 1992, Public Law 102-550, became law. Title X of that statute was the Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992. That Act amended TSCA (15 U.S.C. 2601 *et seq.*) by adding Title IV (15 U.S.C. 2681-92), entitled "Lead Exposure Reduction."

Section 402 of TSCA authorizes EPA to promulgate final regulations governing lead-based paint activities. Lead-based paint activities is defined in section 402(b) of TSCA and authorizes EPA to regulate lead-based paint activities in target housing, public buildings built prior to 1978, commercial buildings, bridges and other structures or superstructures. Those regulations are to ensure that individuals engaged in such activities are properly trained, that training programs are accredited, and that individuals engaged in these activities are certified and follow documented work practice standards. Under section 404, a State may seek authorization from EPA to administer and enforce its own lead-based paint activities program.

On August 29, 1996 (61 FR 45777) (FRL-5389-9), EPA promulgated final TSCA section 402/404 regulations governing lead-based paint activities in target housing and child-occupied facilities (a subset of public buildings). Those regulations are codified at 40 CFR part 745 and allow both States and Indian Tribes to apply for program authorization. On August 31, 1998, EPA instituted the Federal program in States or Indian Country without an authorized program, as provided by section 404(h) of TSCA.

States and Indian Tribes that choose to apply for program authorization must submit a complete application to the appropriate Regional EPA office for review. Those applications will be reviewed by EPA within 180 days of receipt of the complete application. To receive EPA approval, a State or Indian Tribe must demonstrate that its program is as least as protective of human health and the environment as the Federal program, and provides adequate enforcement (section 404(b) of TSCA, 15 U.S.C. 2684(b)). EPA's regulations (40 CFR part 745, subpart Q) provide the

detailed requirements a State or Tribal program must meet in order to obtain EPA approval.

A State may choose to certify that its lead-based paint activities program meets the requirements for EPA approval by submitting a letter signed by the Governor or Attorney General stating that the program meets the requirements of section 404(b) of TSCA. Upon submission of such certification letter, the program is deemed authorized until such time as EPA disapproves the program application or withdraws the authorization.

Section 404(b) of TSCA provides that EPA may approve a program application only after providing notice and an opportunity for a public hearing on the application. Therefore, by this notice EPA is soliciting public comment on whether Texas's application meets the requirements for EPA approval. This notice also provides an opportunity to request a public hearing on the application. Texas has provided a self-certification letter from the Attorney General that its program meets the requirements for approval of a State program under section 404 of TSCA. Therefore, pursuant to section 404, the program is deemed authorized as of the date of submission. If EPA finds that the program does not meet the requirements for approval of a State program, EPA will disapprove the program, at which time a notice will be issued in the **Federal Register** and the Federal program will be established in Texas.

II. State Program Description Summary

The Texas lead-based paint program is administered by the Environmental Lead Branch (ELB) of the Texas Department of Health (TDH). The lead-based paint program duties include enforcement, compliance assistance, inspections, certification, accreditation, and public education.

The Texas Environmental Lead Reduction Rules are modeled after the Federal lead-based paint activities rules found at 40 CFR part 745, subpart L. The rules are applicable to lead-based paint activities performed in target housing and child-occupied facilities. Texas has developed a program that requires certification of all individuals and firms who perform lead-based paint activities, and for the accreditation of lead training providers. Texas has also developed work practice standards for the performance of lead-based paint activities.

All training program providers are required to receive accreditation prior to providing, offering, or claiming to provide training courses for certification purposes. Refresher courses can be

accredited only if the training program has received accreditation for the initial discipline-specific training course.

Programs that have been accredited by another State or agency must apply for and receive accreditation from TDH before conducting or advertising a training course in Texas. Training course program managers are required to notify the TDH of all scheduled training courses and changes in course offerings. The TDH has the authority to audit training programs at any reasonable time.

Certification is required for all individuals and firms who perform lead-based paint activities or services in target housing and child-occupied facilities. The appropriate certification exam must be taken every 3 years for certain disciplines. Persons holding a valid certification issued by another State or Agency must apply for certification, but may request a waiver of initial training requirements. Firms that perform lead-based paint services must be certified by the TDH and must employ properly certified employees.

The TDH had developed work practice standards modeled after the requirements at 40 CFR 745.227. The TDH must be notified in advance of the start of an abatement project and an abatement notification fee must be paid. The TDH has the authority to inspect or investigate the practices of any person involved in lead-based paint activities in target housing and child-occupied facilities. Only laboratories accredited by the National Lead Laboratory Accreditation Program (NLLAP) recognized by EPA may conduct required analyses, but X-ray fluorescence may be used for on-site lead detection.

Texas has submitted information in the application addressing the required program elements for State lead-based paint activities programs pursuant to 40 CFR 745.325. In addition, Texas has submitted information detailing their lead-based paint compliance and enforcement programs as required by 40 CFR 745.327. At this time, Texas is not seeking authorization of a pre-renovation notification program pursuant to 40 CFR 745.326.

III. Federal Overfiling

TSCA section 404(b) makes it unlawful for any person to violate, or fail or refuse to comply with, any requirement of an approved State or Tribal program. Therefore, EPA reserves the right to exercise its enforcement authority under TSCA against a violation of, or a failure or refusal to comply with, any requirement of an authorized State or Tribal program.

IV. Public Record and Electronic Submissions

The official record for this action, as well as the public version, has been established under docket control number "PB-402404-TX" Copies of this notice, the State of Texas's authorization application, and all comments received on the application are available for inspection in the Region VI office, from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. The docket is located at the EPA Region VI Library, Environmental Protection Agency, 1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200, Dallas, TX.

Commenters are encouraged to structure their comments so as not to contain information for which CBI claims would be made. However, any information claimed as CBI must be marked "confidential," "CBI," or with some other appropriate designation, and a commenter submitting such information must also prepare a nonconfidential version (in duplicate) that can be placed in the public record. Any information so marked will be handled in accordance with the procedures contained in 40 CFR part 2. Comments and information not claimed as CBI at the time of submission will be placed in the public record.

Electronic comments can be sent directly to EPA at:

robinson.jeffrey@epamail.epa.gov.

Electronic comments must be submitted as an ASCII file avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption. Comments and data will also be accepted on disks in WordPerfect 5.1/6.1 or ASCII file format. All comments and data in electronic form must be identified by the docket control number "PB-402404-TX." Electronic comments on this document may be filed online at many Federal Depository Libraries. Information claimed as CBI should not be submitted electronically.

V. Regulatory Assessment Requirements

A. Certain Acts and Executive Orders

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Authority: 15 U.S.C. 2682, 2684.

List of Subjects

Environmental protection, Hazardous substances, Lead, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

Dated: April 8, 1999.

Robert E. Hanneschlager,

Acting Division Director, Multimedia Planning and Permitting, Region VI.

[FR Doc. 99-9607 Filed 4-15-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-F

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[OPPTS-51925; FRL-6069-1]

Certain Chemicals; Premanufacture Notices

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Section 5 of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) requires any person who intends to manufacture or import a new chemical to notify EPA and comply with the statutory provisions pertaining to the manufacture or import of substances not on the TSCA Inventory. Section 5 of TSCA also requires EPA to publish receipt and status information in the **Federal Register** each month reporting premanufacture notices (PMN) and test marketing exemption (TME) application requests received, both pending and expired. The information in this document contains notices received from February 14, to February 28, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Written comments, identified by the document control number "[OPPTS-51925]" and the specific PMN number, if appropriate, should be sent to: Document Control Office (7407), Office of Pollution