

it was necessary for us to convert the payment values of the TINTs to "adjust values," which could be maintained and transferred "to the penny." At that time, we stated that we would "consider at a later date the desirability of making changes to the minimum and multiple requirements for fixed-principal TINTs, * * * and permitting fixed-principal TINTs to be held in amounts to the penny."⁵

On November 1, 2000, we announced that, effective March 1, 2001, we will be changing the minimum and multiple requirements for stripping Treasury fixed-principal securities. We have decided to make these changes because elimination of the \$1,000 minimum and multiple requirements will make stripping easier. Market participants will no longer be required to deliver fully constituted securities in widely different amounts depending on the interest rate of the underlying security. By simplifying the requirements for STRIPS, our goal is to enhance the liquidity and efficiency of the STRIPS market.

Increasing the Number of Strippable Securities

Enhancing the liquidity of the STRIPS market is also our objective in modifying the STRIPS rules to permit us to designate a note or bond as strippable even if the note or bond was not originally designated as strippable by its offering announcement. When the STRIPS program was first implemented in 1985, only Treasury notes and bonds with maturities of 10 years or longer were eligible for stripping. At that time there was little market interest in stripping securities with maturities less than 10 years.

By 1997, however, interest in stripping shorter-term Treasury notes had developed. Consequently, on September 17, 1997, we announced that all Treasury notes issued on or after September 30, 1997, were eligible for STRIPS.

Because Treasury securities currently can be made eligible for STRIPS only by being designated as such in their offering announcements, we have not been able to make eligible for stripping outstanding shorter-term (five-year) notes that were issued prior to September 30, 1997. This amendment to the uniform offering circular will allow us to do so. As a result, we plan to announce that we are making eligible for stripping five-year notes issued prior to September 30, 1997, thereby allowing for an increase in the supply of TINTs that mature in the next two years.

Amendments, Revisions, and Deletions

Accordingly, we are amending the uniform offering circular's general paragraph on STRIPS, 356.31(a), so that we may designate Treasury notes and bonds as being eligible for stripping at a later date if they were not designated as being eligible in their offering announcement. We are also amending paragraph 356.31(b)(1), which provides the minimum par amount and multiple requirements for stripping Treasury fixed-principal securities, so that they may be stripped to the penny. We are also amending 31 CFR 306.128 in order to allow outstanding Treasury notes and bonds that we issued prior to the effective date of the uniform offering circular, March 1, 1993, to also be stripped to the penny. As a result of these amendments, we are removing Exhibit C to the uniform offering circular because this table is no longer necessary.

We are issuing this amendment in final form rather than proposed form in order to more quickly simplify and expand the STRIPS market. In addition, there is no negative impact on the holders of the issues of the securities affected. This change provides an additional feature that should enhance the marketability of these issues.

Procedural Requirements

This final rule is not a "significant regulatory action" under Executive Order 12866. The notice and public procedures and delayed effective date requirements of the Administrative Procedure Act also do not apply, under 5 U.S.C. 553(a)(2).

Since no notice of proposed rulemaking is required, the provisions of the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601, *et seq.*) do not apply.

List of Subjects

Bonds, Federal Reserve System, Government securities, Securities.

For the reasons stated in the preamble, we amend 31 CFR Chapter II, Subchapter B, as follows:

PART 306—GENERAL REGULATIONS GOVERNING U.S. SECURITIES

1. The authority citation for part 306 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 31 U.S.C. Chapter 31; 5 U.S.C. 301; 12 U.S.C. 391.

2. Revise § 306.128 to read as follows:

§ 306.128 Supplements, amendments or revisions.

The Secretary of the Treasury may at any time, or from time to time, prescribe additional supplemental, amendatory or revised regulations with respect to U.S.

securities. The Secretary also may lower the minimum and multiple requirements for stripping marketable Treasury notes and bonds issued prior to March 1, 1993, through an announcement as provided in § 356.31 of this title.

PART 356—SALE AND ISSUE OF MARKETABLE BOOK-ENTRY TREASURY BILLS, NOTES, AND BONDS (DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY CIRCULAR, PUBLIC DEBT SERIES NO. 1–93)

3. The authority citation for part 356 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 5 U.S.C. 301; 31 U.S.C. 3102, *et seq.*; 12 U.S.C. 391.

4. Amend § 356.31 as set forth below:

- Revise the first sentence in paragraph (a), and
- Revise paragraph (b)(1) to read as follows:

§ 356.31 STRIPS.

(a) *General.* A note or bond may be designated in the offering announcement, or later by announcement by Treasury, as eligible for the STRIPS program. * * *

(b) *Treasury fixed-principal securities—(1) Minimum par amounts required for STRIPS.* The minimum par amount of a fixed-principal security that may be stripped into the components described in paragraph (a) of this section is \$1,000. Any par amount to be stripped above \$1,000 must be in a multiple of \$1,000.

* * * * *

Exhibit C to Part 356 [Removed]

5. Remove Exhibit C to Part 356.

Dated: October 31, 2000.

Donald V. Hammond,

Fiscal Assistant Secretary.

[FR Doc. 00–28280 Filed 11–1–00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4810–39–P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Part 52

[CA 241–0244a; FRL–6893–1]

Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, Antelope Valley Air Pollution Control District

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Direct final rule.

SUMMARY: EPA is taking direct final action to approve revisions to the Antelope Valley Air Pollution Control

⁵ 63 FR 35783 (June 30, 1998).

District portion of the California State Implementation Plan (SIP). These revisions concern the rescission of rules and associated negative declarations for one volatile organic compound (VOC) source category and one oxides of nitrogen (NO_x) source category for the Antelope Valley Air Pollution Control District (AVAPCD). We are approving these local rule rescissions and negative declarations under the Clean Air Act as amended in 1990 (CAA or the Act).

DATES: This rule is effective on January 2, 2001, without further notice, unless EPA receives adverse comments by December 4, 2000. If we receive such comment, we will publish a timely withdrawal in the **Federal Register** to notify the public that this rule will not take effect.

ADDRESSES: Mail comments to Andy Steckel, Rulemaking Office Chief (AIR-4), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX, 75 Hawthorne Street, San Francisco, CA 94105-3901.

You can inspect copies of the submitted SIP revisions and EPA's technical support documents (TSDs) at our Region IX office during normal business hours. You may also see copies of the submitted SIP revisions at the following locations:

Environmental Protection Agency, Air Docket (6102), Ariel Rios Building, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington DC 20460.

California Air Resources Board, Stationary Source Division, Rule Evaluation Section, 2020 "L" Street, Sacramento, CA 95812.

Antelope Valley Air Pollution Control District, 43301 Division Street, Suite 206, Lancaster, CA 93539-4409

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Julie A. Rose, Rulemaking Office (AIR-4), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX, (415) 744-1184.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Throughout this document, "we," "us" and "our" refer to EPA.

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I. The State's Submittal

A. What Rules Did the State Submit?

Table 1 lists the rule rescissions and negative declarations we are approving with the dates that they were adopted by the local air agency and submitted by the California Air Resources Board (CARB).

TABLE 1.—SUBMITTED RULE RECISSIONS AND NEGATIVE DECLARATIONS

Local agency	Rule No.	Rule title	Adopted	Submitted
AVAPCD	1103 & Negative Declaration	Pharmaceuticals and Cosmetic Manufacturing Operations.	01-18-00	03-28-00
AVAPCD	1159 & Negative Declaration	Nitric Acid Units—Oxides of Nitrogen	01-18-00	03-28-00

On May 19, 2000, these rule submittals were found to meet the completeness criteria in 40 CFR part 51, appendix V, which must be met before formal EPA review.

B. Are There Other Versions of These Rules?

The current versions of Rules 1103 and 1159 were approved in the SIP for the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) on July 2, 1982 and July 12, 1990, respectively. At that time, these rules applied in all of SCAQMD, including the Antelope Valley region of Los Angeles County.¹ The AVAPCD was created pursuant to California Health and Safety Code (CHSC) section 40106 and assumed all air pollution control responsibilities of the SCAQMD in the Antelope Valley region effective July 1, 1997, including responsibility for implementing Rules 1103 and 1159.

C. What Is the Purpose of the Submitted Rules?

Rule 1103 establishes limits for VOC emissions produced by Pharmaceuticals

and Cosmetics Manufacturing Operations. Rule 1159 establishes limits for oxides of nitrogen (NO_x) emissions produced by Nitric Acid Plants. The rescissions and associated negative declarations were submitted because there are no applicable manufacturing or nitric acid facilities within AVAPCD jurisdiction.

II. EPA's Evaluation and Action

A. How Is EPA Evaluating the Rule Rescissions?

These SIP revisions must be consistent with Clean Air Act applicable manufacturing or nitric acid facilities within AVAPCD jurisdiction.

II. EPA's Evaluation and Action

A. How Is EPA Evaluating the Rule Rescissions?

These SIP revisions must be consistent with Clean Air Act requirements for RACT (see sections 182(a)(A) and 182(F)) and SIP relaxations (see sections 110(l) and 193.) To do so, the submittal should provide reasonable assurance that no sources subject to Rules 1103 or 1159 currently exist or are planned for the AVAPCD.

B. Do the Rules Meet the Evaluation Criteria?

We believe these rule rescissions and associated negative declarations are consistent with the relevant policy and guidance regarding RACT and SIP relaxations. The TSD has more information on our evaluation.

C. Public Comment and Final Action

As authorized in section 110(k)(3) of the Act, EPA is fully approving the submitted rule rescissions because we believe they fulfill all relevant requirements. We do not think anyone will object to this, so we are finalizing the approval without proposing it in advance. However, in the Proposed Rules section of this **Federal Register**, we are simultaneously proposing approval of the same submitted rule rescissions. If we receive timely adverse comments, the direct final approval will be effective without further notice on January 2, 2001. This will incorporate these rule rescissions into the federally enforceable SIP.

III. Background Information

Why Were These Rules Submitted Initially?

VOCs and NO_x help produce ground-level ozone and smog, which harm

¹ The Antelope Valley region of Los Angeles County is contained within the Federal area known as the southeast Desert Modified Air Quality Management Area and the region identified by the State of California as the Mojave Desert Air Basin.

human health and the environment. Section 110(a) of the CAA requires states to submit regulations that control VOC and NO_x emissions. Table 2 lists some of the national milestones leading to the submittal of these local agency VOC and NO_x rules.

TABLE 2.—OZONE NONATTAINMENT MILESTONES

Date	Event
March 3, 1978	EPA promulgated a list of ozone nonattainment areas under the Clean Air Act as amended in 1977. 43 FR 8964; 40 CFR 81.305.
May 26, 1988	EPA notified Governors that parts of their SIPs were inadequate to attain and maintain the ozone standard and requested that they correct the deficiencies (EPA's SIP-Call). See section 110(a)(2)(H) of the pre-amended Act.
November 15, 1990.	Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 were enacted. Public Law 101-549, 104 Stat. 2399, codified at 42 U.S.C. 7401-7671q.
May 15, 1991	Section 182(a)(2)(A) requires that ozone nonattainment areas correct deficient RACT rules by this date.

IV. Administrative Requirements

Under Executive Order 12866 (58 FR 51735, October 4, 1993), this action is not a “significant regulatory action” and therefore is not subject to review by the Office of Management and Budget. This action merely approves state law as meeting federal requirements and imposes no additional requirements beyond those imposed by state law. Accordingly, the Administrator certifies that this rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities under the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*). Because this rule approves pre-existing requirements under state law and does not impose any additional enforceable duty beyond that required by state law, it does not contain any unfunded mandate or significantly or uniquely affect small governments, as described in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (Public Law 104-4). For the same reason, this rule also does not significantly or uniquely affect the communities of tribal governments, as specified by Executive Order 13084 (63 FR 27655, May 10, 1998). This rule will not have substantial direct effects on the States, on the relationship between the national government and the States, or

on the distribution of power and responsibilities among the various levels of government, as specified in Executive Order 13132 (64 FR 43255, August 10, 1999), because it merely approves a state rule implementing a federal standard, and does not alter the relationship or the distribution of power and responsibilities established in the Clean Air Act. This rule also is not subject to Executive Order 13045 (62 FR 19885, April 23, 1997), because it is not economically significant.

In reviewing SIP submissions, EPA's role is to approve state choices, provided that they meet the criteria of the Clean Air Act. In this context, in the absence of a prior existing requirement for the State to use voluntary consensus standards (VCS), EPA has no authority to disapprove a SIP submission for failure to use VCS. It would thus be inconsistent with applicable law for EPA, when it reviews a SIP submission, to use VCS in place of a SIP submission that otherwise satisfies the provisions of the Clean Air Act. Thus, the requirements of section 12(d) of the National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act of 1995 (15 U.S.C. 272 note) do not apply. As required by section 3 of Executive Order 12988 (61 FR 4729, February 7, 1996), in issuing this rule, EPA has taken the necessary steps to eliminate drafting errors and ambiguity, minimize potential litigation, and provide a clear legal standard for affected conduct. EPA has complied with Executive Order 12630 (53 FR 8859, March 15, 1988) by examining the takings implications of the rule in accordance with the “Attorney General's Supplemental Guidelines for the Evaluation of Risk and Avoidance of Unanticipated Takings” issued under the executive order. This rule does not impose an information collection burden under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*).

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**. A major rule cannot take effect until 60 days after it is published in the **Federal Register**.

This action is not a “major rule” as defined by 5 U.S.C. 804(2).

Under section 307(b)(1) of the Clean Air Act, petitions for judicial review of this action must be filed in the United States Court of Appeals for the appropriate circuit by January 2, 2001. Filing a petition for reconsideration by the Administrator of this final rule does not affect the finality of this rule for the purposes of judicial review nor does it extend the time within which a petition for judicial review may be filed, and shall not postpone the effectiveness of such rule or action. This action may not be challenged later in proceedings to enforce its requirements. (See section 307(b)(2).)

List of Subjects in 40 CFR Part 52

Environmental protection, Air pollution control, Hydrocarbons, Intergovernmental relations, Oxides of nitrogen, Ozone, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Volatile organic compounds.

Dated: October 4, 2000.

Felicia Marcus,

Regional Administrator, Region IX.

Part 52, Chapter I, Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations is amended as follows:

PART 52—[AMENDED]

1. The authority citation for Part 52 continues to read as follows:

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

Subpart F—California

2. Section 52.220 is amended by adding paragraphs (c)(69)(v) and (c)(168)(i)(H)(3) to read as follows:

§ 52.220 Identification of plan.

* * * * *

(c) * * *
(69) * * *

(v) Previously approved on July 8, 1982 in paragraph (c)(69)(iii) of this section and now deleted without replacement for implementation in the Antelope Valley Air Pollution Control District Rule 1103.

* * * * *

(168) * * *
(i) * * *
(H) * * *

(3) Previously approved on July 12, 1990 in paragraph (i)(H)(1) of this section and now deleted without replacement for implementation in the Antelope Valley Air Pollution Control District Rule 1159.

* * * * *

3. Section 52.222 is amended by adding paragraphs (a)(6)(iv) and (b)(4)(iii) to read as follows:

§ 52.222 Negative declarations.

- (a) * * *
- (6) * * *

(iv) Pharmaceuticals and Cosmetic Manufacturing Operations submitted on March 28, 2000 and adopted on January 18, 2000.

* * * * *

- (b) * * *
- (4) * * *

(iii) Nitric Acid Units submitted on March 28, 2000 and adopted on January 18, 2000.

* * * * *

[FR Doc. 00-27659 Filed 11-2-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-U

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Part 180

[OPP-301043; FRL-6740-9]

RIN 2070-AB78

Sodium *o*-nitrophenolate, sodium *p*-nitrophenolate, sodium 5-nitroguaiacolate, and the End-Use Product Atonik® Exemption From the Requirement of a Tolerance and Temporary Exemption From the Requirement of a Tolerance

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: This regulation establishes an exemption from the requirement of a tolerance for residues of the active ingredients (a.i.) sodium *o*-nitrophenolate, sodium *p*-nitrophenolate, sodium 5-nitroguaiacolate, on all food commodities when used as Plant Growth Regulators on growing crops. These three a.i. comprise the end-use product ATONIK®, ASAHI Manufacturing Company, Ltd., c/o Chemical Consultants International, Inc., West 98th Terrace, Suite 100, Overland Park, KS, 66212, submitted a petition to EPA under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA), as amended by the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA) of 1996, requesting an exemption from the requirement of a tolerance. This regulation eliminates the need to establish a maximum permissible level for residues of sodium *o*-nitrophenolate, sodium *p*-nitrophenolate, and sodium 5-nitroguaiacolate and reassess the three existing tolerances for those three a.i..

DATES: This regulation is effective November 3, 2000. Objections and requests for hearings, identified by docket control number OPP-301043,

must be received by EPA on or before January 2, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Written objections and hearing requests may be submitted by mail, in person, or by courier. Please follow the detailed instructions for each method as provided in Unit VIII. of the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**. To ensure proper receipt by EPA, your objections and hearing requests must identify docket control number OPP-301043 in the subject line on the first page of your response.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: By mail: Richard King, c/o Product Manager (PM) 90, Biopesticides and Pollution Prevention Division (7511C), Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20460; telephone number: (703) 308-8052; e-mail address: king.richard@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. General Information

A. Does this Action Apply to Me?

You may be affected by this action if you are an agricultural producer, food manufacturer, or pesticide manufacturer. Potentially affected categories and entities may include, but are not limited to:

Cat-egories	NAICS codes	Examples of poten-tially affected entities
Industry	111 112 311 32532	Crop production Animal production Food manufacturing Pesticide manufac-turing

This listing is not intended to be exhaustive, but rather provides a guide for readers regarding entities likely to be affected by this action. Other types of entities not listed in the table could also be affected. The North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS) codes have been provided to assist you and others in determining whether or not this action might apply to certain entities. If you have questions regarding the applicability of this action to a particular entity, consult the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

B. How Can I Get Additional Information, Including Copies of this Document and Other Related Documents?

1. *Electronically.* You may obtain electronic copies of this document, and certain other related documents that might be available electronically, from the EPA Internet Home Page at <http://www.epa.gov/>. To access this document, on the Home Page select "Laws and Regulations," "Regulations and Proposed Rules," and then look up the entry for this document under the "Federal Register—Environmental Documents." You can also go directly to the **Federal Register** listings at <http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/>.

2. *In person.* The Agency has established an official record for this action under docket control number OPP-301043. The official record consists of the documents specifically referenced in this action, and other information related to this action, including any information claimed as Confidential Business Information (CBI). This official record includes the documents that are physically located in the docket, as well as the documents that are referenced in those documents. The public version of the official record does not include any information claimed as CBI. The public version of the official record, which includes printed, paper versions of any electronic comments submitted during an applicable comment period is available for inspection in the Public Information and Records Integrity Branch (PIRIB), Rm. 119, Crystal Mall #2, 1921 Jefferson Davis Hwy., Arlington, VA, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. The PIRIB telephone number is (703) 305-5805.

II. Background and Statutory Findings

In the **Federal Register** of July 8, 1998 (63 FR 36901) (FRL-5791-6), EPA issued a notice pursuant to section 408 of the FFDCA, 21 U.S.C. 346a(e), as amended by the FQPA (Public Law 104-170) announcing the filing of a pesticide tolerance petition by ASAHI Manufacturing Company, Ltd., c/o Chemical Consultants International, Inc., West 98th Terrace, Suite 100, Overland Park, KS, 66212. This notice included a summary of the petition prepared by the petitioner ASAHI Manufacturing Company, Ltd. There were no comments received in response to the notice of filing.

New section 408(c)(2)(A)(i) of the FFDCA allows EPA to establish an exemption from the requirement for a tolerance (the legal limit for a pesticide chemical residue in or on a food) only if EPA determines that the exemption is "safe." Section 408(c)(2)(A)(ii) defines "safe" to mean that "there is a reasonable certainty that no harm will result from aggregate exposure to the pesticide chemical residue, including all anticipated dietary exposures and all other exposures for which there is reliable information." This includes exposure through drinking water and in