

“government securities” to include qualified Canadian government obligations, specifically whether particular requirements in the GSA regulations would raise operational issues of which we are unaware.

Subchapter B

As noted above, Subchapter A of the regulations requires institutions subject to Subchapter A (i.e., government securities brokers and dealers and exempt institutions) to also comply with the rules in Subchapter B. In addition, under Title II of the GSA (31 U.S.C. 3121(h), 9110) depository institutions that are not government securities brokers or dealers and that hold government securities for the account of customers must comply with the rules prescribed by Treasury in 17 CFR, Subchapter B, Part 450. Thus, there are three categories of institutions that must follow the rules in Subchapter B—(a) (as required by the rules in Subchapter A), financial institution government securities brokers and dealers and (b) (also as required by the rules in Subchapter A), exempt financial institutions, and (c) depository institutions that are not government securities brokers or dealers and that hold government securities for the account of customers.

Because two of these categories of institutions ((a) and (b)) are based on one statutory authority (Title I of the GSA), and the third category ((c)) is based on another statutory authority (Title II of the GSA), we are proposing a revised regulatory definition of “government securities” at section 450.2(e) that takes this into account. Proposed § 450.2(e)(1), the definition

applicable to institutions that are required under the rules in Subchapter A to follow the Subchapter B rules, will include qualified Canadian government obligations. Proposed § 450.2(e)(2) of the definition is narrower and does not include qualified Canadian government obligations. It would be applicable to institutions that are required to follow the Subchapter B rules solely because of the requirements of Title II of the GSA.

Therefore, for institutions required to follow the rules in Subchapter B as a result of the requirements of Subchapter A, proposed § 450.2(e)(1)(i) and (e)(1)(ii) would extend the requirements of Subchapter B to institutions holding qualified Canadian government obligations for customer accounts.

Based on our consultation with staff of the bank regulatory agencies, we understand this proposed change in the definition of “government securities” would not have a material impact on banks. They are not aware of situations in which banks in the U.S. are handling qualified Canadian government obligations for customers. Therefore, we believe this conforming amendment would not have more than a minimal effect on banks.

The G–L–B Act was enacted on November 12, 1999. The effective date of Subtitle A of Title II of the G–L–B Act is 18 months after enactment, or May 12, 2001. Accordingly, after we consider all comments received in response to this proposed amendment, we intend to issue a final amendment to the GSA regulations that will be effective May 12, 2001.

Special Analysis

The proposed rule would only make a technical amendment to the GSA regulations to conform to a change in definition of the term “government securities” made by the G–L–B Act. Based on the very limited impact of the proposed amendment, it is our view that the proposed regulations are not a “significant regulatory action” for the purposes of Executive Order 12866.

For the same reasons, we certify under the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601, et seq.) that the proposed regulations, if adopted, will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. As a result, a regulatory flexibility analysis is not required.

List of Subjects in 17 CFR Part 450

Banks, banking, Government securities, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

For the reasons stated in the preamble, we propose to amend 17 CFR Part 450 to read as follows:

PART 450—CUSTODIAL HOLDINGS OF GOVERNMENT SECURITIES BY DEPOSITORY INSTITUTIONS

1. The authority citation for Part 450 is revised to read as follows:

Authority: Sec. 201, Pub. L. 99–571, 100 Stat. 3222–23 (31 U.S.C. 3121, 9110); Sec. 101, Pub. L. 99–571, 100 Stat. 3208 (15 U.S.C. 78o–5(b)(1)(A), (b)(4), (b)(5)(B)).

2. Section 450.2 is amended by revising paragraph (e) to read as follows:

§ 450.2 Definitions.

* * * * *

(e) *Government securities* means:

| If . . . | Then . . . |
|---|---|
| (1)(i) A depository institution is a government securities broker or dealer as defined in sections 3(a)(43) and 3(a)(44) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78c(a)(43)–(44)). | “Government securities” means those obligations described in subparagraphs (A), (B), (C), or (E) of section 3(a)(42) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78c(a)(42)(A)–(C), (E)). |
| (ii) A depository institution is exempt under Part 401 of this chapter from the requirements of Subchapter A. | “Government securities” means those obligations described in subparagraphs (A), (B), (C), or (E) of section 3(a)(42) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78c(a)(42)(A)–(C), (E)). |
| (2) A depository institution is not a government securities broker or dealer as defined in sections 3(a)(43) and 3(a)(44) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78c(a)(43)–(44)). | “Government securities” means those obligations described in subparagraphs (A), (B), or (C) of section 3(a)(42) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78c(a)(42)(A)–(C)). |

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Dated: February 21, 2001.
Donald V. Hammond,
Acting Under Secretary, Domestic Finance.
 [FR Doc. 01–4647 Filed 2–23–01; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4810–39–P

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

38 CFR Part 3

RIN 2900–AJ44

Well-Grounded Claims

AGENCY: Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Withdrawal of proposed rule.

SUMMARY: In a document published in the **Federal Register** at 64 FR 67528 on December 2, 1999, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) proposed to amend its adjudication regulations concerning a claimant’s statutory responsibility to support his or her

claim with evidence adequate to make the claim "well grounded." The proposed rule also addressed VA's duty to help claimants who have filled well-grounded claims obtain evidence pertinent to their claims. This document withdraws that proposed rule.

Subsequent to the publication of the proposed rule, the Veterans Claims Assistance Act of 2000 (VCAA), Pub. L. No. 106-475, 114 Stat. 2096, was signed into law. The VCAA eliminated the claimant's responsibility to file a well-grounded claim and redefined VA's duty to help claimants obtain evidence relevant to their claims. Therefore, we are withdrawing the proposed rule and preparing a new proposed rule to implement the new statutory requirements.

DATES: The proposed rule is withdrawn as of February 26, 2001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Janice Jacobs, Consultant, Policy and Regulations Staff, Compensation and Pension Service, Veterans Benefits Administration, 810 Vermont Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20420, telephone (202) 273-7223.

Approved: February 15, 2001.

Anthony J. Principi,

Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

[FR Doc. 01-4634 Filed 2-23-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8320-01-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Part 63

[ADL-FRL-6948-8]

RIN 2060-AH47

National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutant Emissions: Group IV Polymers and Resins

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Proposed rule; extension of compliance.

SUMMARY: The EPA is proposing to extend certain compliance dates contained in national emissions standards for hazardous air pollutant emissions for Group IV polymers and resins for polyethylene terephthalate (PET) affected sources. We are proposing this compliance extension pursuant to section 301(a)(1) of the Clean Air Act (CAA) to complete reconsideration of equipment leaks provisions and any necessary revision to the rule.

In the "Rules and Regulations" section of this **Federal Register**, we are

approving the extension of compliance dates as a direct final rule without prior proposal because we view this as a noncontroversial revision and anticipate no adverse comment. We have explained our reasons for this approval in the preamble to the direct final rule. If we receive adverse comment, we will withdraw the direct final rule and it will not take effect. We will address all public comments in a subsequent final rule based on this proposed rule. We will not institute a second comment period on this action. Any parties interested in commenting must do so at this time.

DATES: Comments. Written comments must be received by March 28, 2001, unless a hearing is requested by March 8, 2001. If a hearing is requested, written comments must be received by April 12, 2001.

Public Hearing. Anyone requesting a public hearing must contact the EPA no later than March 8, 2001. If a hearing is held, it will take place on March 13, 2001, beginning at 10:00 a.m.

ADDRESSES: Comments. Comments should be submitted (in duplicate, if possible) to: Air and Radiation Docket and Information Center (6102), Attention Docket Number A-92-45 (Group IV Polymers and Resins), Room M-1500, U.S. EPA, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20460. The EPA requests that a separate copy also be sent to the contact person listed below (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**). Comments and data may also be submitted electronically by following the instructions provided in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section. No Confidential Business Information (CBI) should be submitted through electronic mail.

Public Hearing. If a public hearing is held, it will be held at the EPA's Office of Administration Auditorium, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina. Persons interested in attending the hearing or wishing to present oral testimony should notify Ms. Maria Noell, U.S. EPA, MD-13, Research Triangle Park, NC 27711, telephone (919) 541-5607.

Docket. The official record for this rulemaking has been established under docket number A-92-45. A public version of this record, including printed, paper versions of electronic comments and data, which does not include any information claimed as CBI, is available for inspection between 8 a.m. and 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. The official rulemaking record is located at U.S. EPA, Waterside Mall, 401 M Street, SW, Washington, DC 20460.

Alternatively, a docket index, as well as

individual items contained within the docket, may be obtained by calling (202) 260-7548 or (202) 260-7549. A reasonable fee may be charged for copying.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Keith Barnett, Organic Chemicals Group, Emission Standards Division (MD-13), Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, U.S. EPA, Research Triangle Park, NC 27711, telephone number (919) 541-5605, fax number (919) 541-3470, and electronic mail: barnett.keith@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Docket. The docket reflects the full administrative record for this action and includes all the information relied upon by EPA in the development of this rule. The docket is a dynamic file because material is added throughout the rulemaking process. The docketing system is intended to allow members of the public and industries involved to readily identify and locate documents so that they can effectively participate in the rulemaking process. Along with the proposed and promulgated standards and their preambles, the contents of the docket will serve as the record in the case of judicial review. (See section 307(d)(7)(A) of the CAA.)

World Wide Web (WWW). In addition to being available in the docket, an electronic copy of this proposed rule will also be available on the WWW through the Technology Transfer Network (TTN). Following the Administrator's signature, a copy of the action will be posted on the TTN's policy and guidance page for newly proposed or promulgated rules <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg>. The TTN provides information and technology exchange in various areas of air pollution control. If more information regarding the TTN is needed, call the TTN HELP line at (919) 541-5384.

Regulated Entities. Regulated categories and entities include:

| Category | Examples of regulated entities |
|----------------|--|
| Industry | Facilities manufacturing PET using a batch dimethyl terephthalate (DMT) process, PET facilities using a continuous DMT process, PET facilities using a batch terephthalic acid (TPA) process, and PET facilities using a continuous TPA records. |

This table is not intended to be exhaustive, but rather provides a guide