review may be filed, and shall not postpone the effectiveness of such rule or action. Parties with objections to this direct final rule are encouraged to file a comment in response to the parallel notice of proposed rulemaking for this action published in the Proposed Rules section of today’s Federal Register, rather than file an immediate petition for judicial review of this direct final rule and address the comment in the proposed rulemaking. This action may not be challenged later in proceedings to enforce its requirements. (See section 307(b)(2).)

I. Background

Summary: EPA is approving the State Implementation Plan (SIP) submittals from the State of Idaho demonstrating that the Idaho SIP meets the requirements of section 110(a)(1) and (2) of the Clean Air Act (CAA) for the National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) promulgated for ozone on July 18, 1997. EPA finds that the current Idaho SIP meets the following 110(a)(2) infrastructure elements for the 1997-8-hour ozone NAAQS: (A), (B), (C), (D)(ii), (E)(i), (E)(iii), (F), (G), (H), (J), (K), (L), and (M). EPA is taking no action on CAA section 110(a)(2)(E)(ii) at this time. We will address the requirements of this sub-element in a separate action. EPA is also approving a SIP revision that applies Idaho’s Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) Program to greenhouse gas (GHG) emitting sources above certain thresholds, updates Idaho’s SIP to incorporate by reference revised versions of specific federal regulations, and removes unnecessary language from the SIP due to the incorporation by reference of the federal NAAQS and PSD regulations. In addition, EPA is rescinding the Federal Implementation Plan (FIP) put in place to ensure the availability of a permitting authority for greenhouse gas emitting sources in Idaho.

Dates: This action is effective on August 16, 2012.

Addresses: EPA has established a docket for this action under Docket ID No. EPA–R10–OAR–2011–0724. All documents in the docket are listed on the www.regulations.gov Web site. Although listed in the index, some information may not be publicly available, i.e., Confidential Business Information or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. Certain other material, such as copyrighted material, is not placed on the Internet and will be publicly available only in hard copy form. Publicly available docket materials are available either electronically through www.regulations.gov or in hard copy at EPA Region 10, Office of Air, Waste and Toxics (AWT–107), 1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900, Seattle, WA 98101. EPA requests that you contact the person listed in the FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT section to schedule your inspection. The Regional Office’s official hours of business are Monday through Friday, 8:30 to 4:30, excluding Federal holidays.

For further Information contact: Kristin Hall at telephone number: (206) 553–6357, email address: hall.kristin@epa.gov, or the above EPA, Region 10 address.

Supplementary Information: Throughout this document wherever “we”, “us” or “our” are used, we mean EPA. Information is organized as follows:

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I. Background
II. Scope of Action
III. Final Action
IV. Statutory and Executive Order Reviews

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List of Subjects in 40 CFR Part 52

Environmental protection, Air pollution control, Carbon monoxide, Incorporation by reference, Intergovernmental relations, Lead, Nitrogen dioxide, Ozone, Particulate matter, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Sulfur oxides, Volatile organic compounds.

Dated: June 27, 2012.

Susan Hedman,
Regional Administrator, Region 5.

40 CFR part 52, 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 P—Indiana

2. In §52.770 the table in paragraph (c) is amended by revising the entry for 1–1–3 under Article 1, Rule 1, to read as follows:

§52.770 Identification of plan.

(c) * * *
averaging period which replaced the previous 1-hour averaging period, and the level of the NAAQS was changed from 0.12 parts per million (ppm) to 0.08 ppm (62 FR 38856). The CAA requires SIPs meeting the requirements of sections 110(a)(1) and (2) be submitted by states within 3 years after promulgation of a new or revised standard. Sections 110(a)(1) and (2) require states to address basic SIP requirements, including emissions inventories, monitoring, and modeling to assure attainment and maintenance of the standards, so-called “infrastructure” requirements. To help states meet this statutory requirement for the 1997 8-hour ozone NAAQS, EPA issued guidance to address infrastructure SIP elements under section 110(a)(1) and (2). In the case of the 1997 8-hour ozone NAAQS, states typically have met the basic program elements required in section 110(a)(2) through earlier SIP submissions in connection with previous ozone standards. On September 15, 2008, the State of Idaho submitted a certification to EPA certifying that Idaho’s SIP meets the infrastructure obligations for the 1997 8-hour ozone and 1997 PM2.5 NAAQS. The certification included an analysis of Idaho’s SIP as it relates to each section of the infrastructure requirements with regard to the 1997 8-hour ozone and 1997 PM2.5 NAAQS. Subsequently, on June 24, 2010, Idaho submitted an updated certification to EPA for sections 110(a)(2)(D) and 110(a)(2)(G). On April 11, 2012, EPA published a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPR) to act on Idaho’s infrastructure SIP for the 1997 ozone NAAQS (77 FR 21702).

Specifically in the NPR, EPA proposed approval of Idaho’s SIP as meeting the requirements for the following 110(a)(2) infrastructure elements for the 1997 8-hour ozone NAAQS: (A), (B), (C), (D)(ii), (E)(i), (E)(ii), (E)(iii), (F), (G), (H), (J), (K), (L), and (M). As discussed in the NPR, the proposed action did not address CAA section 110(a)(2)(E)(ii), which will be addressed in a separate action. In the NPR, EPA also proposed to approve the June 20, 2011, SIP revision submitted by Idaho that applies Idaho’s PSD Program to GHG-emitting sources above certain thresholds, updates Idaho’s SIP to incorporate by reference revised versions of specific federal regulations, and removes unnecessary language from the SIP due to the incorporation by reference of the federal NAAQS and PSD regulations. In addition, EPA proposed to rescind the FIP put in place to ensure the availability of a permitting authority for GHG-emitting sources in Idaho.

EPA provided a 30-day review and comment period on the NPR, published April 11, 2012 (77 FR 21702). The public comment period for EPA’s NPR closed on May 11, 2012. EPA received no comments on the proposed action.

II. Scope of Action

Idaho has not demonstrated authority to implement and enforce Idaho Administrative Procedures Act (IDAPA) Chapter 58 within “Indian Country” as defined in 18 U.S.C. 1151. Therefore, EPA proposes that this SIP approval not extend to “Indian Country” in Idaho. See CAA sections 110(a)(2)(A) (SIP shall include enforceable emission limits), 110(a)(2)(E)(i) (State must have adequate authority under State law to carry out SIP), and 172(c)(6) (nonattainment SIPs shall include enforceable emission limits). This is consistent with EPA’s previous approval of Idaho’s PSD program, in which EPA specifically disapproved the program for sources within Indian Reservations in Idaho because the State had not shown it had authority to regulate such sources. See 40 CFR 52.683(b). It is also consistent with EPA’s approval of Idaho’s title V air operating permits program. See 61 FR 64622 (December 6, 1996) (interim approval does not extend to Indian Country); 66 FR 50574 (October 4, 2001) (full approval does not extend to Indian Country).

III. Final Action

EPA is approving the SIP submittals from the State of Idaho demonstrating that the Idaho SIP meets the requirements of section 110(a)(1) and (2) of the CAA for the NAAQS promulgated for ozone on July 18, 1997. EPA is approving in full the following section 110(a)(2) infrastructure elements for Idaho for the 1997 ozone NAAQS: (A), (B), (C), (D)(ii), (E)(ii), (E)(iii), (F), (G), (H), (J), (K), (L), (M). EPA is taking no action on CAA section 110(a)(2)(E)(ii) at this time. EPA will address the requirements of this sub-element in a separate action. EPA is also approving a portion of Idaho’s June 20, 2011, SIP submittal that applies Idaho’s PSD Program to GHG-emitting sources at the emissions thresholds and in the same time frames as those specified in the Tailoring Rule (75 FR 31514, June 3, 2010). In conjunction with this approval of Idaho’s PSD program for GHG-emitting sources, EPA is rescinding the FIP at 40 CFR 52.37 which provides for EPA to be the PSD permitting authority for GHG-emitting sources in Idaho.

EPA is also approving portions of Idaho’s June 20, 2011, SIP submittal to revise the incorporation by reference of federal regulations revised as of July 1, 2010, in order to ensure Idaho’s SIP is up to date with changes to federal regulations. EPA is not acting on the portions of the SIP revision that are not related to the criteria pollutants regulated under title I of the CAA or the requirements for SIPs under section 110 of the CAA. Finally, EPA is approving the removal of language from the Idaho SIP that has become unnecessary due to Idaho’s incorporation by reference of the federal NAAQS and the federal PSD regulations. Specifically, EPA is approving the removal of the sub-sections of IDAPA 58.01.01.577 “Ambient Air Quality Standards for Specific Pollutants” that relate to pollutants for which EPA has promulgated a NAAQS, and which are now unnecessary because Idaho has incorporated the federal NAAQS by reference into the state SIP. EPA is also approving the changes to Idaho’s PSD regulations at IDAPA 58.01.01.581.01 to remove the increments table in its entirety, and to instead reference the federal PSD increment requirements contained in 40 CFR 52.21(c), which are incorporated by reference in Idaho’s SIP. This action is being taken under section 110 and part C of the CAA.

IV. Statutory and Executive Order Reviews

Under the Clean Air Act, the Administrator is required to approve a SIP submission that complies with the provisions of the Act and applicable Federal regulations. 42 U.S.C. 7410(k), 40 CFR 52.2(a). Thus, in reviewing SIP submissions, EPA’s role is to approve state choices, provided that they meet the criteria of the Clean Air Act.

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1 William T. Harnett, Director, Air Quality Policy Division, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards. “Guidance on SIP Elements Required Under Sections 110(a)(1) and (2) for the 1997 8-hour Ozone and PM 2.5 National Ambient Air Quality Standards.” Memorandum to EPA Air Division Directors, Regions I-X, October 2, 2007.
Accordingly, this action merely approves state law as meeting Federal requirements and does not impose additional requirements beyond those imposed by state law. For that reason, this action:

- Is not a “significant regulatory action” subject to review by the Office of Management and Budget under Executive Order 12866 (58 FR 51735, October 4, 1993);
- Does not impose an information collection burden under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.);
- Is certified as not having a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities under the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601 et seq.);
- Does not contain any unfunded mandate or significantly or uniquely affect small governments, as described in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104–4);
- Does not have Federalism implications as specified in Executive Order 13132 (64 FR 43255, August 10, 1999);
- Is not an economically significant regulatory action based on health or safety risks subject to Executive Order 13045 (62 FR 19885, April 23, 1997);
- Is not a significant regulatory action subject to Executive Order 13211 (66 FR 43255, May 22, 2001);
- Is not subject to requirements of Section 12(d) of the National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act of 1995 (15 U.S.C. 272 note) because application of those requirements would be inconsistent with the Clean Air Act; and
- Does not provide EPA with the discretionary authority to address, as appropriate, disproportionate human health or environmental effects, using practicable and legally permissible methods, under Executive Order 12898 (59 FR 7629, February 16, 1994).

In addition, this rule does not have tribal implications as specified by Executive Order 13175 (65 FR 67249, November 9, 2000), because the SIP is not approved to apply in Indian country located in the state, and EPA notes that it will not impose substantial direct costs on tribal governments or preempt tribal law.

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 action 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 September 17, 2012. Filing a petition for reconsideration by the Administrator of this final rule does not affect the finality of this action 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, Carbon monoxide, Incorporation by reference, Intergovernmental relations, Lead, Nitrogen dioxide, Ozone, Particulate matter, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Sulfur oxides, Volatile organic compounds.

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

Dated: June 29, 2012.

Dennis J. McLerran,
Regional Administrator, Region 10.

40 CFR Part 52 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 A—General Provisions

2. § 52.37 is amended by removing and reserving paragraph (b)(4).

Subpart N—Idaho

3. In § 52.670:

a. The table in paragraph (c) is amended by revising entry 107, removing entry 577, and revising entry 581.

b. The table in paragraph (e) is amended by adding an entry at the end of the table for “Section 110(a)(2) Infrastructure Requirements for the 1997 8-hour Ozone NAAQS.”

§ 52.670 Identification of plan.

(c) * * *

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EPA-APPROVED IDAHO NONREGULATORY PROVISIONS AND QUASI-REGULATORY MEASURES

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

47 CFR Parts 2 and 20

[WTB: WT Docket No. 07–250; DA 12–550]

Hearing Aid Compatibility Technical Standard

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Wireless Telecommunications Bureau and the Office of Engineering and Technology (Bureaus) adopt the 2011 ANSI Standard for hearing aid compatibility of wireless phones. The Bureaus take this action to ensure that a selection of digital wireless handset models is available to consumers with hearing loss.

DATES: These rules are effective August 16, 2012.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael Rowan, 202 418–1883, email michael.rowan@fcc.gov, or Saurabh Chhabra, 202 418–2266, email saurbh.chhabra@fcc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This is a summary of the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau and the Office of Engineering and Technology’s Third Report and Order in WT Docket No. 07–250, adopted April 9, 2012, and released April 9, 2012. The full text of the Third Report and Order is available for inspection and copying during business hours in the FCC Reference Information Center, Portals II, 445 12th Street SW., Room CY–A257, Washington, DC 20554. Also, it may be purchased from the Commission’s duplicating contractor at Portals II, 445 12th Street SW., Room CY–B402, Washington, DC 20554; the contractor’s Web site, http://www.bcpiweb.com; or by calling (800) 378–3160, facsimile (202) 488–3563, or email FCC@BCPIWEB.com. Copies of the Third Report and Order also may be obtained via the Commission’s Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) by entering the docket number, WT Docket No. 07–250. Additionally, the complete item is available on the Federal Communications Commission’s Web site at http://www.fcc.gov.

I. Introduction

1. The Federal Communications Commission (Commission) has wireless hearing aid compatibility rules to ensure that consumers with hearing loss are able to access wireless communications services through a wide selection of handsets without experiencing disabling radio frequency (RF) interference or other technical obstacles. In order to ensure that the hearing aid compatibility rules cover the greatest number of wireless handsets and reflect recent technological advances, the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB) and Office of Engineering and Technology (OET) (jointly the Bureaus) adopt in this Third Report and Order, pursuant to authority delegated by the Commission, the most current hearing aid compatibility technical standard.

2. The standard that the Bureaus adopt was developed through a voluntary, consensus-driven approach and is broadly supported by both industry and consumer groups. The Bureaus extend its appreciation for the efforts of the many parties involved in developing this standard. The Bureaus strongly encourage all parties to continue their efforts to refine and develop standards applicable to new telephone technologies that may create potential for interference with hearing aids.

II. Background

3. To ensure that a selection of digital wireless handset models is available to consumers with hearing loss, the Commission’s rules require both manufacturers and service providers to meet defined benchmarks for deploying hearing aid-compatible wireless phones. Specifically, manufacturers and service providers are required to offer minimum numbers or percentages of handset models that meet technical standards for compatibility with hearing aids operating in both acoustic coupling and inductive coupling modes. These benchmarks apply separately to each air interface for which the manufacturer or service provider offers handsets.

4. To define and measure the hearing aid compatibility of handsets, the Commission’s rules reference the 2007 revision of American National Standards Institute (ANSI) technical standard C63.19 (the “2007 ANSI Standard”), formulated by the Accredited Standards Committee C63®—Electromagnetic Compatibility (ASC C63®). A handset is considered hearing aid-compatible for acoustic coupling if it meets a rating of at least M3 under the 2007 ANSI Standard. A handset is considered hearing aid-compatible for inductive coupling if it meets a rating of at least T3. The 2007 ANSI Standard specifies testing procedures for determining the M-rating and T-rating of digital wireless handsets that operate over the air interfaces that, at the time it was promulgated, were commonly used for wireless services in the 800–950 MHz and 1.6–2.5 GHz bands.

5. ASC C63® recently adopted an updated version of ANSI C63.19 (the “2011 ANSI Standard”). The 2011 ANSI Standard was published on May 27, 2011, and ASC C63® subsequently requested that the Commission adopt this newer version of the standard into its rules. The 2011 ANSI Standard expands the operating frequency range for covered wireless devices to 698 MHz–6 GHz. It also establishes a direct interface for which the manufacturer or service provider offers handsets.

6. The 2011 ANSI Standard is a version of the 2007 ANSI Standard that incorporates certain updates to the M-rating and T-rating methodologies and broadens the operating frequency range, while retaining a requirement for hearing aid compatibility with wireless phones operating in the 800–950 MHz and 1.6–2.5 GHz bands. The 2011 ANSI Standard also interprets the 2007 ANSI Standard for hearing aid compatibility rules in certain ways that differ from those to which the Commission’s rules reference.

III. Adoption of the 2011 ANSI Standard

The Bureaus adopt the 2011 ANSI Standard for hearing aid compatibility of wireless phones, which offers a better definition of the hearing aid interface requirements, allowing for more realistic testing of hearing aid-compatible wireless phones, and defines more rigorous technical performance requirements for hearing aid compatibility.

IV. Implementation of the 2011 ANSI Standard

The Bureaus adopt the 2011 ANSI Standard to align with the requirements for hearing aid compatibility currently in place in the United Kingdom and Australia.

V. Authorization of Handset Models

The Bureaus adopt in this Third Report and Order, pursuant to authority delegated by the Commission, the final rule implementing the adoption of the 2011 ANSI Standard. In addition, the Bureaus authorize the testing of handsets for their hearing aid compatibility status.

This action addresses following CAA elements or portions thereof: 110(a)(2)(A), (B), (C), (D)(ii), (E)(i), (E)(iii), (F), (G), (H), (J), (K), (L), and (M).