

4. This polymer is not designed or reasonably anticipated to substantially degrade, decompose, or depolymerize.

5. It is not manufactured or imported from monomers and/or other reactants that are not already on the TSCA Chemical Substance Inventory or manufactured under an applicable TSCA Section 5 exemption.

6. It is not a water absorbing polymer.

7. The minimum average molecular weight of the above mentioned polymer is greater than 10,000. Substances with molecular weights greater than 400 are generally not readily absorbed through the intact skin, and substances with molecular weights greater than 1,000 are generally not absorbed through the intact gastrointestinal (GI) tract. Chemicals not absorbed through the GI tract are generally incapable of eliciting a toxic response. This polymer has an oligomer content less than 2% below MW 500 and less than 5% MW 1,000.

Alco believes sufficient information was submitted in the petition to assess the hazards of the N,N-dimethyl acrylamide acrylic acid polymer. No toxicology data were presented in the petition as the Agency does not generally require some or all of the listed studies to rule on the exemption from the requirement of a tolerance for an inert ingredient. Based on this polymer's conforming to the definition of a polymer and meeting the criteria of a low risk polymer under 40 CFR 723.250, Alco believes there are no concerns for risks associated with toxicity.

8. *Endocrine disruption.* There is no evidence that the polymer is an endocrine disrupter. Substances with molecular weights greater than 400 generally are not absorbed through the intact skin, and substances with molecular weights greater than 1,000 generally are not absorbed through the intact gastrointestinal (GI) tract. Chemicals not absorbed through the skin or GI tract generally are incapable of eliciting a toxic response.

#### *B. Aggregate Exposure*

1. *Dietary exposure.* Some modified acrylic polymers may be used in contact with food as components of containers used to manufacture, process, or store food when regulated for such use under the FFDCA. Modified acrylic polymers with a molecular weight greater than 1,000 daltons are not readily absorbed through the intact gastrointestinal tract and are considered incapable of eliciting a toxic response.

2. *Non-dietary exposure.* Typical uses of modified acrylic polymers are in the inks and coatings and industrial water treatment industries. In these uses the

primary exposures are dermal, however, modified acrylic polymers with a molecular weight significantly greater than 400 are not readily absorbed through the intact skin and are considered incapable of eliciting a toxic response.

#### *C. Cumulative Effects*

There is data to support a conclusion of negligible cumulative risk for modified acrylic polymers. Polymers with molecular weights greater than 400 generally are not absorbed through the intact skin, and substances with molecular weights greater than 1,000 generally are not absorbed through the intact gastrointestinal (GI) tract. Chemicals not absorbed through the skin or GI tract generally are incapable of eliciting a toxic response. Therefore, there is no reasonable expectation of increased risk due to cumulative exposure. Based on this polymer conforming to the definition of a polymer and meeting the criteria of a low risk polymer under 40 CFR 723.250, Alco believes there are no concerns for risks associated with cumulative effects.

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## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-7438-9]

### **Innovative Technologies for Remote Collection of Data for the National Children's Study; Notice: Request for Information**

**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency.

**ACTION:** Notice; request for information for Innovative Technologies for Remote Collection of Data for the National Children's Study.

**SUMMARY:** This request for information from the National Center for Environmental Assessment, Office of Research and Development for Innovative Technologies for Remote Collection of Data for the National Children's Study is for state-of-the-art technology (currently available and those possible in the future) to enhance data collection for this longitudinal study currently being planned by a coalition of federal agencies. This request for information (RFI) is intended strictly for market research purposes and may not lead to a solicitation or contract.

The National Children's Study (NCS) is a large long-term study of environmental influences on children's health and development. This study

will explore a broad range of environmental factors, both helpful and harmful, that influence the health and well-being of children. For this study, environment is broadly defined to include chemical, physical, social, and behavioral influences on children, and to better understand the role of these factors on health and disease. More information on the NCS is available at <http://www.NationalChildrensStudy.gov>.

In initial discussions, the NCS Technology Group, consisting of technology experts within the federal government, has highlighted the utility of remote collection of data for longitudinal studies. Approaches identified include the use of Personal Digital Assistant (PDA), wireless technology, the Internet, and other technologies currently in development for collection of data between in-person visits/appointments. The three major areas discussed include: (1) Collection of questionnaire data (e.g., diaries, symptom check lists, information on doctor's visits, and medications); (2) measurement and transmittal of environmental measurements (e.g., devices that measure indoor or outdoor air quality, store the data over time, and transmit it to a central data location either by phone hook-up or wireless technology; devices used that collect samples, e.g., dust or volatile organic compounds that can be sent to laboratories for analysis; and Global Positional System (GPS) devices that would transmit location for use in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) analyses); and (3) measurement and transmittal of health/biological measurements such as physiological measures (e.g., blood pressure, heart rate, and weight).

The information provided as a response to this RFI will be included with background material in a meeting being planned to discuss these issues. Presentations and discussions during this workshop will identify the most promising and urgent of the above issues, identify existing technology that could be used or adapted for use, along with a discussion of security and confidentiality. For example, regardless of the study design, use of remote technologies for collection of questionnaire data will be a data collection method implemented from the beginning of the study. Other items will be ranked by urgency and amount of lead time needed for development. Part of this exercise would be the identification of pros and cons of the proposed technology.

The government is also seeking information from hardware and software