

the interests of producers of winter pears in the production area.

Order Relative to Handling of Winter Pears Grown in Oregon and Washington

It is therefore ordered, That on and after the effective date hereof, all handling of winter pears grown in Oregon and Washington shall be in conformity to, and in compliance with, the terms and conditions of the said order as hereby amended as follows:

The provisions to change order language relating to alternate Committee members serving for absent members at Committee meetings contained in USDA's Decision issued by the Administrator on June 4, 2002, and published in the **Federal Register** on June 10, 2002, shall be and are the terms and provisions of this order amending the order and are set forth in full herein.

List of Subjects in 7 CFR Part 927

Marketing agreements, Pears, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

■ For the reasons set out in the preamble, 7 CFR part 927 is amended as follows:

PART 927—WINTER PEARS GROWN IN OREGON AND WASHINGTON

■ 1. The authority citation for 7 CFR part 927 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 601–674.

■ 2. Revise § 927.28 to read as follows:

§ 927.28 Alternates for members of the Control Committee.

The first alternate for a member shall act in the place and stead of the member for whom he or she is an alternate during such member's absence. In the event of the death, removal, resignation, or disqualification of a member, his or her first alternate shall act as a member until a successor for the member is selected and has qualified. The second alternate for a member shall serve in the place and stead of the member for whom he or she is an alternate whenever both the member and his or her first alternate are unable to serve. In the event that both a member of the Control Committee and that member's alternates are unable to attend a Control Committee meeting, the member may designate any other alternate member from the same group (handler or grower) to serve in that member's place and stead.

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Dated: April 14, 2003.

A. J. Yates,

Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

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CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

16 CFR Part 1500

Metal-Cored Candlewicks Containing Lead and Candles With Such Wicks

AGENCY: Consumer Product Safety Commission.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Commission is today declaring that metal-cored candlewicks containing more than 0.06 percent lead by weight in the metal and candles with such wicks are hazardous substances and is banning such wicks and candles with such wicks.¹ The Commission is issuing this final rule under authority of the Federal Hazardous Substances Act (FHSA).

DATES: This final rule becomes effective on October 15, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kristina Hatlelid, Ph.D., M.P.H., Project Manager, Directorate for Health Sciences, Consumer Product Safety Commission, Washington, DC 20207; telephone (301) 504–7254.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

A. Background

On February 24, 2000, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC or Commission) received a request from Public Citizen that the Commission ban candles with lead-containing wicks and wicks sold for candle-making that contain lead. On February 29, 2000, CPSC received a similar request from the National Apartment Association and the National Multi Housing Council. These requests were docketed collectively under the FHSA (Petition No. HP 00–3) on March 17, 2000.

After analysis of the available data on lead-cored candlewicks and the information provided by the petitioners, the CPSC staff transmitted a briefing package to the Commission recommending that it proceed with a rulemaking that could result in a ban of lead-cored candlewicks and candles with such wicks. The staff recommended that a lead-cored wick be defined as a wick containing a metal

core with greater than 0.06 percent lead by weight in the metal, since laboratory test data indicate that burning candles with metal-cored wicks with lead concentrations of 0.06 percent or less by weight does not result in detectable emissions of lead into the air. On February 20, 2001, the Commission voted to grant the petition and commence rulemaking by issuing an advance notice of proposed rulemaking (ANPR) incorporating this criterion. 66 FR 10863. The ANPR was followed in April of 2002 by a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPR) that included requirements for certification, record-keeping, labeling, and tracking of metal-cored candlewicks and candles that comply with the ban. 67 FR 20062.

B. The Product²

Lead-cored wicks are candlewicks with a metal wire in the center made of lead or lead alloy. The metal core is used to provide structural rigidity to the wick, *i.e.*, to keep the wick straight during candle production, and to provide an upright wick during burning.

C. The Market

1. Trade Associations

The major trade association that represents candle and wick manufacturers and suppliers is the National Candle Association (NCA). NCA members include about 74 candle manufacturers, 10 of which are foreign. The NCA states that its members produce about 90 percent of the candles made in the U.S. Another U.S. based organization, comprised of craftspeople, is the International Guild of Candle Artisans, with 800 members from around the world.

2. Candle Information

Of 483 firms identified by CPSC staff as U.S. candle manufacturers, all but three firms had fewer than 500 employees and 293 (or 60 percent) had fewer than five employees.

In 2000, the latest year for which factory shipment data are available, U.S. domestic candle shipments totaled approximately \$1.5 billion. Imports

² Information presented in this preamble is derived from briefing memoranda to the Commission from Kristina M. Hatlelid, Ph.D., M.P.H., toxicologist, Directorate for Health Sciences, to the Commission, "Petition HP 00–3 to Ban Lead-Cored Candlewicks," December 12, 2000; "Proposal to Ban Lead-Cored Candlewicks," March 18, 2002; and "Briefing Package for Ban on Candles with Lead-containing Wicks for Candle-making that Contain Lead—Final Rule," March 27, 2003. These and other materials for this rulemaking are available on the CPSC world wide Web site at www.cpsc.gov and from the CPSC office of the Secretary, Room 502, 4330 East West Highway, Bethesda, Maryland, 20814, (301) 504–7923.

¹ The Commissioners voted 3–0 to issue these final rules.