

to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The OMB control numbers for EPA's regulations are listed in 40 CFR part 9 and 48 CFR chapter 15.

The EPA would like to solicit comments to:

(i) Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;

(ii) Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

(iii) Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(iv) Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, *e.g.*, permitting electronic submission of responses.

Burden Statement: The annual public reporting and recordkeeping burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 0.7 hours per response (OMB #2060-0095), and 0.5 hours per response (OMB #2060-0294) respectively. Burden means the total time, effort, or financial resources expended by persons to generate, maintain, retain, or disclose or provide information to or for a Federal agency. This includes the time needed to review instructions; develop, acquire, install, and utilize technology and systems for the purposes of collecting, validating, and verifying information, processing and maintaining information, and disclosing and providing information; adjust the existing ways to comply with any previously applicable instructions and requirements; train personnel to be able to respond to a collection of information; search data sources; complete and review the collection of information; and transmit or otherwise disclose the information.

OMB #2060-0095

Respondents/Affected entities: Individuals and businesses importing motor vehicles and motor vehicle engines.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 13,000.

Frequency of Response: 1.6 responses/year.

Estimated Total Annual Hour Burden: 15,800.

Estimated Total Annualized Costs Burden: \$ 1,266,000.

OMB #2060-0294

Respondents/Affected entities: Individuals and businesses importing compression-ignition nonroad engines and small spark-ignition nonroad engines, including those incorporated into nonroad equipment or vehicles.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 1,500.

Frequency of Response: 100 responses/year.

Estimated Total Annual Hour Burden: 76,370.50.

Estimated Total Annualized Costs Burden: \$ 93,765.00.

Dated: April 30, 2003.

Robert Brenner,

Acting Assistant Administrator, Office of Air and Radiation.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-7495-7]

Protection of Stratospheric Ozone: Process for Exempting Critical Uses of Methyl Bromide

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of solicitation of applications and information on alternatives.

SUMMARY: EPA is soliciting applications for the Critical Use Exemption from the phaseout of methyl bromide. This application process offers users of methyl bromide the opportunity to provide technical and economic information to support a "critical use" claim.

Methyl bromide is a chemical pesticide that has been identified under the *Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer* and the Clean Air Act, as an ozone-depleting substance. It is scheduled for complete phaseout by January 1, 2005. The Critical Use Exemption is designed to allow continued production and import of methyl bromide after the phaseout for those uses that have no technically and economically feasible alternatives. Because Critical Use Exemptions are exemptions from the January 1, 2005, methyl bromide phaseout, they will become effective after that date.

Applicants for the exemption are requested to submit technical and economic information to EPA for U.S. review. The U.S. will then create a

national nomination for review by the Parties to the Montreal Protocol. EPA encourages users with similar circumstances of use to submit a single application. Please contact your state regulatory agency to receive information about their involvement in the process.

DATES: Applications for the Critical Use Exemption must be postmarked on or before August 6, 2003. The response period is now 90 days reflecting the clarifications and reduction of burden in the application.

ADDRESSES: Applications for the methyl bromide Critical Use Exemption should be submitted in duplicate (two copies) by mail to: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Pesticide Programs, Biological and Economic Analysis Division, Attention Methyl Bromide Review Team, Mail Code 7503C, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20460 or by courier delivery (other than U.S. Post Office overnight) to: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Pesticide Programs, Biological and Economic Analysis Division, Attention Methyl Bromide Review Team, Crystal Mall II, 1921 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA 22202. Applicants are encouraged to send an electronic version of their application and/or attached documents along with their paper submission or sent via electronic mail to bromide.methyl@epa.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

General Information: U.S. EPA Stratospheric Ozone Information Hotline, 1-800-296-1996.

Technical Information: Bill Chism, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Pesticide Programs (7503C), 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20460, 703-308-8136.

Economic Information: David Widawsky, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Pesticide Programs (7503C), 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20460, 703-308-8150.

Regulatory Information: Hodayah Finman, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Global Programs Division (6205J), 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20460, 202-564-2651.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

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