

Act, 44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.* The OMB control number is 2060–0170.

In relation to the expected benefits of today's exemption from the phaseout schedule for methyl bromide, this action is maintaining the additional reporting and record keeping requirements required in the interim final rule. This action requires reporting by distributors of methyl bromide regarding the total quantity sold that is certified to be solely for quarantine and preshipment applications. This action also requires applicators of methyl bromide to certify that specified quantities purchased will be used solely for quarantine and preshipment applications. Producers and importers of methyl bromide must include additional information in existing quarterly reports. As in the interim final rule, producers that export and third-party exporters must submit additional information regarding quantities of methyl bromide exported for quarantine and preshipment applications. Today's action also maintains the record keeping requirements of the interim final rule associated with the reporting listed above and for commodity owners or shippers who must formally request methyl bromide use citing the official control or official requirement for the quarantine and preshipment application.

EPA is making the reporting forms associated with this rule available electronically, as a first step. In addition, EPA is working to make it possible for people to complete the forms electronically with special guidance on a "file naming protocol." EPA wants to create this "file naming protocol" so forms completed electronically by producers and importers can be saved with similar nomenclature for transmission to EPA by email. For example, the company, Acme Ltd., might complete the third-quarter importer's report electronically and save the document with the name 3Q_ImpR_Acme and send it, by email, to EPA. The Agency believes guidance on a "file naming protocol" will ease the process for electronically filing, searching and identifying forms for both the Agency and companies, and be especially helpful if a question arises

about information in a specific form. EPA will strive to have forms available that can be completed electronically by the regulatory deadline for submission of the first-quarter reports (30 days after the end of the quarter in 2003), and will make every effort to have them available no later than for submission of second-quarter reports. Concurrent with the process for making it possible to electronically complete forms for submission by email, EPA is pursuing technical and logistical questions about creating a secure Web-based system for direct electronic reporting of data. If EPA deems that it is feasible and efficient to create a secure Web-based database for direct electronic reporting, then EPA will work to bring such a system online by 2004.

The information collection under this action is designed to implement the exemption in paragraph 6 under article 2H of the Montreal Protocol for quantities of methyl bromide used for quarantine and preshipment applications as well as the exemption under 604(d)(5) of the CAA. The information collection under this rule is authorized under section 603(b) and 603(d) of the CAA. This information collection is conducted to meet U.S. obligations under Article 7, Reporting Requirements, of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (Protocol); and to carry out the requirements of Title VI of the CAA, including sections 603 and 614. The reporting requirements included in this rule are intended to: (1) Allow exempted production and import for a specific exemption and the consequent tracking of that production and import; (2) respond to industry comments on the functioning of the program to streamline reporting and eliminate administrative inefficiencies; (3) satisfy U.S. obligations under the international treaty, The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (Protocol), to report data under Article 7; (4) fulfill statutory obligations under Section 603(b) of Title VI of the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 for reporting and monitoring; and (5) provide information to report to Congress on the production, use and

consumption of class I controlled substances as statutorily required in section 603(d) of Title VI of the CAA.

EPA informs respondents that they may assert claims of business confidentiality for any of the information they submit. Information claimed confidential will be treated in accordance with the procedures for handling information claimed as confidential under 40 CFR part 2, Subpart B, and will be disclosed only to the extent, and by means of the procedures, set forth in that subpart. If no claim of confidentiality is asserted when EPA receives the information it may be made available to the public without further notice to the respondents (40 CFR 2.203).

The information collection requirements for this action have an estimated reporting burden averaging 1.38 hours per response. This estimate includes time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed and completing the collection of information. The estimate includes the time needed to comply with EPA's reporting requirements, as well as that used for the completion of reports.

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; and transmit or otherwise disclose the information.

An Agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required 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.

Collection activity	No. of respondents	Responses/ respondent	Total responses	Hours per response	Total hours
Producers & Importers Report	4	4	16	1	16
Exporters Report	2	4	8	8	64
Applicator Certification	15	6	90	0.5	45
Distributor Report	15	4	60	4	240
Commodity Owner, Shipper or Agent Record keeping	500	10	500	1	500
Total burden hrs	865