

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**40 CFR Part 82**

[FRL-7504-3]

RIN 2060-AK28

Protection of Stratospheric Ozone: Listing of Substitutes for Ozone-Depleting Substances—n-Propyl Bromide**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency.**ACTION:** Notice of proposed rulemaking.

SUMMARY: This action proposes to list n-propyl bromide (nPB) as an acceptable substitute for ozone-depleting substances (ODSs), subject to use conditions, in the solvent cleaning sector and aerosol solvents and adhesive end uses under the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA or "we") Significant New Alternatives Policy (SNAP) program. The SNAP program implements section 612 of the amended Clean Air Act of 1990 (CAA), which requires EPA to evaluate substitutes for ODSs in order to reduce overall risk to human health and the environment.

While we find that nPB has a short atmospheric lifetime and low ozone depletion potential when emitted from locations in the continental U.S., the Agency cautions that significant use of nPB closer to the equator poses significant risks to the stratospheric ozone layer. Further, if workplace exposure to nPB is poorly controlled, it may increase health risks to workers. In the interim, until the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) develops a mandatory workplace exposure limit under Section 6 of the Occupational Safety and Health Act, the Agency recommends that users of nPB adhere to an acceptable exposure limit of 25 parts per million (ppm) over an eight-hour time-weighted average.

In today's action, EPA proposes that the use of nPB is acceptable subject to a use condition, in a limited number of specific applications where emissions can be tightly controlled for both environmental and exposure concerns. The proposal only allows the use of nPB as a solvent in metals, precision, and electronics cleaning, and in aerosol solvent and adhesive end-uses. EPA is proposing to list nPB as an acceptable substitute for chlorofluorocarbon (CFC)-113, hydrochlorofluorocarbon (HCFC)-141b, and methyl chloroform when used in aerosol solvent and adhesive end uses, subject to the condition that nPB used in these end uses not contain more than 0.05% isopropyl bromide by

weight before adding stabilizers or other chemicals. We are also proposing to list nPB as an acceptable substitute for CFC-113 and methyl chloroform in general metals cleaning, electronics cleaning, and precision cleaning, subject to the condition that nPB used in these end uses not contain more than 0.05% isopropyl bromide by weight before adding stabilizers or other chemicals.

DATES: Comments must be received in writing by August 4, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be submitted by mail to: Air and Radiation Docket, Environmental Protection Agency, Mailcode 6102T, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20460, Attention Docket ID No. OAR-2002-0064. Comments may also be submitted electronically, by facsimile, or through hand delivery/courier. Follow the detailed instructions as provided at the beginning of the "supplementary information" section.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information about this proposed rule, contact Margaret Sheppard by telephone at (202) 564-9163, or by e-mail at sheppard.margaret@epa.gov. Notices and rulemakings under the SNAP program are available on EPA's Stratospheric Ozone World Wide Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/ozone/snap/regs>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Table of Contents**

- I. General Information
 - A. Regulated entities
 - B. How can I get copies of related information?
 - C. How and to whom do I submit comments?
 - D. How should I submit CBI to the agency?
 - E. Acronyms and abbreviations used in the preamble
- II. How does the Significant New Alternatives Policy (SNAP) program work?
 - A. What are the statutory requirements and authority for the SNAP program?
 - B. How do the regulations for the SNAP program work?
 - C. Where can I get additional information about the SNAP program?
- III. Is EPA listing n-propyl bromide as an acceptable substitute for ozone-depleting substances?
 - A. What is EPA proposing today?
 - B. What is n-propyl bromide?
 - C. What industrial sectors are included in our proposed decision?
- IV. What did EPA consider in preparing today's proposal?
 - A. Toxicity
 1. What Acceptable Exposure Limit is EPA recommending for n-propyl bromide, and why?
 - a. Summary of toxicity studies
 - b. Derivation of an AEL for nPB

- c. Overview of the Center for Evaluation of Risk to Human Reproduction (CERHR) Expert Panel Report
 - d. AELs suggested by other reviewers and outside parties
 - e. Feasibility of meeting the AEL for nPB in each sector
2. Are there other entities that may set workplace standards for nPB?
 3. Is the general population exposed to too much nPB?
 4. What limit is EPA setting on isopropyl bromide contamination of n-propyl bromide as a condition of acceptability, and why?
 - B. Ozone depletion potential
 - C. Global warming potential
 - D. Flammability
 - E. Other environmental concerns
 - F. Comparison of nPB to other solvents
- V. What other factors did EPA consider that are unique to nPB?
- A. Continued review of nPB by other federal and international programs
 - B. Potential market for n-propyl bromide
 - C. Estimated economic impacts on businesses
- VI. How is EPA responding to comments on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking and December 18, 2000 notice of data availability?
- VII. What should I include in my comments on EPA's proposal?
- VIII. What is the federal government doing to help businesses use nPB safely?
- IX. How can I use nPB as safely as possible?
- X. Statutory and Executive Order Reviews
- XI. References

I. General Information**A. Regulated Entities**

Today's proposal would regulate the use of n-propyl bromide as a solvent used in industrial equipment for metals cleaning, electronics cleaning, or precision cleaning, and as an aerosol solvent and a carrier solvent in adhesives. Businesses that currently might be using nPB, or might want to use it in the future, include:

- Businesses that clean metal parts, such as automotive manufacturers, machine shops, machinery manufacturers, and electroplaters.
- Businesses that manufacture electronics or computer equipment.
- Businesses that require a high level of cleanliness in removing oil, grease, or wax, such as for aerospace applications or for manufacture of optical equipment.
- Foam fabricators that glue pieces of polyurethane foam together or foam cushion manufacturers that glue fabric around a cushion.
- Furniture manufacturers that use adhesive to attach wood parts to floors, tables and counter tops.

Regulated entities may include: