

the SNAP program (59 FR 13044), we do not believe that rulemaking procedures are necessary to list alternatives that are acceptable without restrictions because such listings neither impose any sanction nor prevent anyone from using a substitute.

Many SNAP listings include "comments" or "further information." These statements provide additional information on substitutes that we determine are either unacceptable, acceptable subject to narrowed use limits, or acceptable subject to use conditions. Since this additional information is not part of the regulatory decision, you are not required to follow these statements to use a substitute unless they specifically reference regulatory requirements. The further information does not necessarily include all other legal obligations pertaining to the use of the substitute. However, we encourage users of substitutes to apply all statements in the "Further Information" column in their application of these substitutes, regardless of any regulatory requirements. In many instances, the information simply refers to sound operating practices that have already been identified in existing industry and/or building-code standards. Thus, many of the comments, if adopted, would not require the affected industry to make significant changes in existing operating practices.

C. Where Can I Get Additional Information About the SNAP Program?

For copies of the comprehensive SNAP lists of substitutes or additional information on SNAP, look at EPA's Ozone Depletion World Wide Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/ozone/snap/lists/index.html>. For more information on the Agency's process for administering the SNAP program or criteria for evaluation of substitutes, refer to the SNAP final rulemaking published in the **Federal Register** on March 18, 1994 (59 FR 13044), codified at Code of Federal Regulations at 40 CFR part 82, subpart G. You can find a complete chronology of SNAP decisions and the appropriate **Federal Register** citations at <http://www.epa.gov/ozone/snap/chron.html>.

III. Is EPA Listing n-Propyl Bromide as an Acceptable Substitute for Ozone-Depleting Substances?

A. What Is EPA Proposing Today?

EPA is proposing today to list n-propyl bromide (nPB) acceptable, subject to use conditions, for use as a substitute for CFC-113 and methyl

chloroform¹ in metals, precision and electronics cleaning, and acceptable, subject to use conditions, for use as a substitute for CFC-113, methyl chloroform and HCFC-141b in adhesives and aerosol solvent end uses. The use conditions for each end use provide that nPB not contain more than 0.05% isopropyl bromide (iPB)² by weight before adding stabilizers or other chemicals. By this, we mean the chemical n-propyl bromide that is produced by the manufacturer or reclaimed by a recycler before other substances are added, such as stabilizers, other solvents, or adhesive solids. End users would need to keep documentation for two years from the date on the documentation to show that the nPB-based product that they are using contains no more than 0.05% iPB in the nPB. EPA's decision is based upon comparing environmental and health risks associated with the use of nPB in specific applications in the United States, compared to other available alternatives. Based on our review, the impact of using nPB in the U.S. does not warrant listing the chemical as an unacceptable substitute under the SNAP program.

We recommend, but do not require, that users in all industrial sectors adhere to EPA's recommended guideline for worker exposure of 25 parts per million (ppm) over an eight-hour time-weighted average. While we believe it is possible to achieve the recommended exposure limit of 25 ppm in the kinds of applications listed above, we are concerned about potentially high emissions and exposure levels of nPB in adhesive applications in particular. Consequently, EPA intends to work with the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) to develop information for employers and workers at facilities that use, or could use, nPB. NIOSH and state occupational safety and health agencies will provide technical assistance to help ensure a safe workplace environment if owners or workers request it.

EPA strongly recommends that users follow responsible use practices suggested by the manufacturer when using nPB. You can also reduce risk in the workplace by monitoring workers' levels of exposure to nPB. These practices will reduce the risk of toxic effects to workers, as well as reducing the impact of emissions on the environment.

¹ Methyl chloroform is also referred to as 1,1,1-trichloroethane, TCA, or 1,1,1.

² iPB is also referred to as 2-bromopropane, 2-propyl bromide, or 2-BP. Its CAS registration number is 75-26-3.

B. What Is n-Propyl Bromide?

n-propyl bromide (nPB), also called 1-bromopropane, is a non-flammable organic solvent with a strong odor. Its chemical formula is C₃H₇Br. Its identification number in Chemical Abstracts Service's registry (CAS Reg. No.) is 106-94-5. nPB is used to remove wax, oil, and grease from electronics, metal, and other materials. It also is used as a carrier solvent in adhesives. Some brand names of products using nPB are: Abzol®, EnSolv®, and Solvon® cleaners, and Whisper Spray and Fire Retardant Soft Seam 6460 adhesives.

C. What Industrial Sectors Are Included in Our Proposed Decision?

EPA has received petitions under CAA Section 612(d) to add nPB to the list of acceptable alternatives for CFC-113, methyl chloroform, and HCFC-141b in the solvent cleaning sector for general metals, precision, and electronics cleaning, as well as in aerosol solvent and adhesive applications.³ Today's proposal does not list nPB as a substitute for HCFC-141b for the solvent cleaning sector, but does list nPB as an acceptable substitute for HCFC-141b, subject to use conditions, for aerosol solvents. This is because EPA previously listed HCFC-141b as unacceptable for use in non-aerosol solvent cleaning applications because of the availability of safer alternatives (59 FR 13090; March 18, 1994), and listed HCFC-141b as acceptable for use in aerosol solvents. No one may legally use HCFC-141b for non-aerosol solvent cleaning and, therefore, no one would substitute for its use.

The proposal for aerosol solvents only applies to a limited number of aerosol solvent applications because of the Nonessential Products Ban promulgated under Section 610 of the Act which prohibits the sale, distribution, or offer for sale or distribution in interstate commerce of many products containing CFCs and HCFCs. All aerosol products, pressurized dispensers and foam products containing or manufactured with CFCs and HCFCs—except those specifically exempted by the regulations at 40 CFR part 82, subpart C, and those that are listed as essential medical devices by the Food and Drug Administration at 21 CFR 2.125(e)—are banned from sale and distribution in the

³ EPA also received petitions for using nPB in the foam blowing and fire suppression sectors. Because the information in these petitions about the use of nPB is incomplete, EPA was unable to consider them. Therefore, today's action does not address nPB's use in the foam blowing and fire suppression sectors.