

blender, a printed circuit board repair facility, and a labor union. Almost all of the comments focused on the use of nPB in solvent cleaning, although the Agency did receive a few comments on the use of nPB in adhesives and aerosols applications. No commenter suggested using nPB in coatings or inks.

Many of the commenters described the complex task of searching for an optimal substitute for CFC-113 or methyl chloroform. Factors they have considered include maintaining superior performance, minimizing contamination, maintaining cost-effective and efficient processes, complying with local and other national regulatory requirements, assuring employee safety, and meeting exacting customer standards. These commenters often described their specific experiences using nPB, and compared nPB with other solvents and with other cleaning processes such as aqueous cleaning. Proponents of nPB listed as its chief advantages its lower cost compared to some alternatives (e.g., HFCs, HFEs), lack of corrosiveness, potency as a solvent, low conductivity, minimal residues, and quick drying time. They also noted its ODP, short atmospheric lifetime and low GWP.

One commenter stated that because of its expense, users may use nPB more efficiently than they would use other, less expensive solvents. The commenter, a manufacturer of precision electromagnetic relays, formerly used about 5,000 pounds of methyl chloroform each year, and now uses about 1,500 pounds of nPB. Another commenter noted that nPB's bad odor provides users with an incentive to minimize evaporative losses. Commenters who oppose listing nPB as an acceptable substitute cited its instability, reactivity, and toxicity. Several commenters argued that nPB should not be used in solvent cleaning because it is largely uncontrolled and relatively little is known about its health effects.

In response to the Agency's December 18, 2000, SNAP notice and update on nPB (65 FR 78977), one commenter expressed concern about the use of nPB in cleaning and adhesive applications because of data showing that nPB is a reproductive toxin. The commenter also noted that the chemical sold as nPB contains fairly high quantities of iPB, a potent reproductive toxin. In addition, the commenter expressed concern that one manufacturer of nPB had recently left the market, and asked EPA to seek input on setting the proper exposure level from NIOSH, OSHA, and toxicologists who are not from industry or EPA.

Our proposal today reflects the Agency's agreement with those commenters who stated that there are some cleaning operations for which only nPB (and presumably, the CFC-113 or methyl chloroform that it replaced) meets all of the criteria necessary for the success of those operations. However, we also agree that some, but not all, cleaning operations that formerly relied on CFC-113 or methyl chloroform can use alternative cleaning agents, or alternative processes such as aqueous or semi-aqueous cleaning. EPA has discussed the results of the 2-generation reproductive study (WIL, 2001) and the recommended exposure limit with NIOSH as well as outside toxicologists not involved with the solvent industry or EPA, as one commenter suggested. We agree that the quantity of iPB in nPB is of concern. In response, we are proposing today to limit the iPB content in nPB to 0.05% by weight. We also are recommending an acceptable exposure limit for nPB of 25 ppm as an eight-hour time-weighted average, and recommending that users employ controls to minimize worker exposure to nPB to the lowest levels reasonably possible. The Agency believes that today's proposed rule takes into account environmental and workplace safety concerns associated with nPB, and that adhering to the recommended AEL of 25 ppm will protect against adverse health effects.

VII. What Should I Include in My Comments on EPA's Proposal?

In your comments, please explain what you think EPA should do in this rulemaking and why you think your suggested approach is appropriate. You may find the following suggestions helpful for preparing your comments:

1. Explain your views as clearly as possible.
2. Describe any assumptions that you used.
3. Provide any technical information and/or data you used that support your views.
4. If you estimate potential burden or costs, explain how you arrived at your estimate.
5. Provide specific examples to illustrate your concerns.
6. Offer alternatives.
7. Make sure to submit your comments by the comment period deadline identified.
8. To ensure proper receipt by EPA, identify the appropriate docket identification number, OAR-2002-0064 in the subject line on the first page of your response. It would also be helpful if you provided the name, date, and

Federal Register citation related to your comments.

EPA invites comment on all aspects of today's proposed rule. A number of specific issues are raised throughout the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section of today's preamble. We request your comments on the following issues in particular:

(1) Is it appropriate for EPA to find nPB acceptable for use in the solvents metals, electronics and precision cleaning, aerosol solvents, and adhesives, coatings, and inks sectors? Why or why not? Should EPA have different decisions for different sectors or end uses? In particular, given that the CERHR Expert Panel expressed concern about "poorly controlled spray adhesive applications," should EPA find nPB acceptable, subject to use conditions, for use in spray adhesives? Should the Agency find nPB acceptable, subject to use conditions, for use in aerosol solvents, or should nPB's use be limited to certain applications in this end use? (See section III of today's notice and CERHR, 2002a, p. 50.)

(2) What is an appropriate and achievable limit on the content of isopropyl bromide (iPB) in unstabilized nPB? Should this impurity limit be 0.1%, 0.05%, or 0.025% iPB by weight? Why? How much does each of these purity levels add to the cost of cleaning solvents or adhesives made using nPB, in terms of \$/drum and as a percentage of the current cost? (See section IV.A.4. of today's notice.)

(3) What is an appropriate acceptable exposure limit for EPA to recommend, and why? If you disagree with the proposed recommended exposure limit of 25 ppm, why do you disagree? Should EPA consider risk management principles in developing a recommended AEL? Please cite specific points of concern (e.g., studies considered, endpoints considered in BMD analysis, uncertainty factors applied). (See sections IV.A.1.a through d. of today's notice.)

(4) Should nPB be listed acceptable with a skin notation? (See section IV.A.1.b of today's notice.)

EPA also invites commenters to submit any new, relevant data pertaining to nPB and iPB beyond what is discussed in today's notice. Under EPA guidelines, there is a preference for peer reviewed data because of the potential to improve the quality and credibility of the product. Peer-reviewed data are studies/analyses that have been reviewed by qualified individuals (or organizations) who are independent of those who performed the work, but who are collectively equivalent in technical expertise (i.e., peers) to those who