

EPA is providing additional comments regarding use of C6-perfluoroketone for streaming agent uses. Appropriate protective measures should be taken and proper training administered for the manufacture, clean-up and disposal of this product. The acceptable exposure limit (AEL) is set at a level believed to protect workers who are regularly exposed, such as in the manufacturing or filling processes, from chronic adverse effects; the estimated AEL for C6-perfluoroketone is 100 ppm as an 8-hour time-weighted average. EPA recommends the following for establishments filling canisters to be used in streaming applications: adequate ventilation should be in place; all spills should be cleaned up immediately in accordance with good industrial hygiene practices; and training for safe handling procedures should be provided to all employees that would be likely to handle the containers of the agent or extinguishing units filled with the agent. We find that C6-perfluoroketone is acceptable subject to narrowed use limits (for use only in non-residential areas) because it reduces overall risk to public health and the environment in the end use and application requested by the submitter and listed above.

b. H Galden Hydrofluoropolyethers

H Galden Hydrofluoropolyethers (HFPEs) is acceptable, subject to narrowed use limits, as a halon 1211 substitute for streaming agent uses. The narrowed use limits require that HFPEs be used only in nonresidential applications. This substance is a mixture of fractions of hydrofluoropolyethers of similar composition. H Galden HFPEs have an ozone depletion potential of zero. They have an atmospheric lifetime from 12 to 25 years. H Galden HFPEs have a global warming potential (GWP) that varies for the particular fraction, ranging from 2790 to 6230 for the fractions having the highest GWP. Despite the relatively high GWP values, use of H Galden HFPEs are anticipated to have a smaller impact on global warming than the use of HFCs. H Galden HFPEs are non-flammable. In studies on H Galden HFPEs, the NOAEL was 3.5% and a LOAEL was not identified. H Galden HFPEs are expected to be blended with other compounds (e.g., HFC-227ea, HFC-125) that have previously been approved under SNAP.

EPA is providing additional comments regarding use of H Galden HFPEs in streaming agent applications. The estimated AEL for H-Galden HFPEs 1163 ppm for workplace exposure, typically during the manufacturing and

filling processes. Because the AEL is above 1000 ppm, a level that can be achieved using generally employed good housekeeping and industrial practices, EPA recommends that exposure levels be kept below 1000 ppm on an 8-hour TWA basis. Further, EPA recommends that H Galden HFPEs should not exceed its ceiling concentration of 6000 ppm at any time. EPA recommends the following procedures should be followed to ensure that this level is not exceeded:

- Adequate ventilation should be in place;
- All spills should be cleaned up immediately in accordance with good industrial hygiene practices; and
- Training for safe handling procedures should be provided to all employees that would be likely to handle the containers of H Galden HFPEs or extinguishing units filled with the material.

H-Galden HFPEs have no ODP, relatively low atmospheric lifetimes of from 13–25 years, and comparable impact on global warming with the SNAP-approved HFC. H Galden HFPEs reduce risk overall compared to halon 1211, the ODS they replace. EPA's review of environmental and human health impacts of this blend is contained in the public docket for this rulemaking. Thus, we find that H-Galden HFPEs are acceptable subject to narrowed use limits (for use only in non-residential applications) because they reduce overall risk to public health and the environment in the end use and application requested by the submitter and listed above.

III. Administrative Requirements

A. Executive Order 12866

Under Executive Order 12866 (58 FR 51735, October 4, 1993), the Agency must determine whether this regulatory action is significant and therefore subject to OMB review and the requirements of the Executive Order. The Order defines significant regulatory action as one that is likely to result in a rule that may:

- (1) Have an annual effect on the economy of \$100 million or more, or adversely affect in a material way the economy, a sector of the economy, productivity, competition, jobs, the environment, public health or safety, or State, local, or tribal governments or communities;
- (2) Create a serious inconsistency or otherwise interfere with an action taken or planned by another agency;
- (3) Materially alter the budgetary impact of entitlement, grants, user fees,

or loan programs or the rights and obligations of recipients thereof; or

(4) Raise novel legal or policy issues arising out of legal mandates, the President's priorities, or the principles set forth in the Executive Order.

Pursuant to the terms of Executive Order 12866, OMB notified EPA on October 3, 2002, that it considers this a "non-significant regulatory action" within the meaning of the Executive Order and, therefore, did not require EPA to submit this action to OMB for review.

B. Paperwork Reduction Act

EPA has determined that this final rule contains no information requirements subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act, 44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*, that are not already approved by the OMB. OMB has reviewed and approved two Information Collection Requests (ICRs) by EPA which are described in the March 18, 1994 rulemaking (59 FR 13044, at 13121, 13146–13147) and in the October 16, 1996 rulemaking (61 FR 54030, at 54038–54039). These ICRs included five types of respondent reporting and record-keeping activities pursuant to SNAP regulations: submission of a SNAP petition, filing a SNAP/TSCA Addendum, notification for test marketing activity, record-keeping for substitutes acceptable subject to narrowed use limits, and record-keeping for small volume uses. The OMB Control Numbers are 2060–0226 and 2060–0350.

Copies of the ICR document(s) may be obtained from Sandy Farmer, by mail at the Office of Environmental Information, Collection Strategies Division; U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (2822); 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20004, by E-mail at farmer.sandy@epa.gov, or by calling (202) 566–1676. A copy may also be downloaded off the Internet at <http://www.epa.gov/icr>. Include the ICR and/or OMB number in any correspondence.

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