

insecticide formetanate hydrochloride in or on dried prunes.

10. *Nicotine-containing compounds.* On December 6, 2002 (67 FR 72673)(FRL-7281-5), EPA published a notice in the **Federal Register** under section 6(f)(1) of FIFRA announcing its receipt of a request from the registrant to amend a registration for a product whose active ingredient is a nicotine-containing compound and delete greenhouse food crop uses, including cucumber, lettuce, and tomato. (These were the last active food use registrations for nicotine-containing compounds). EPA approved the registrants' requests for voluntary deletion of these uses and allowed a period of 18 months for the registrant to sell and distribute existing stocks until December 4, 2004. The Agency believes that there is sufficient time for end users to exhaust those existing stocks and treated commodities to clear the channels of trade by December 4, 2005. Therefore, EPA is proposing to revoke the tolerances in 40 CFR 180.167 for residues of nicotine-containing compounds in or on cucumber, lettuce, and tomato with expiration/revocation dates of December 4, 2005.

11. *Polyoxyethylene.* EPA is proposing to revoke the tolerance exemptions in 40 CFR 180.1078 for residues of poly(oxy-1,2-ethanediyl), alpha-isooctadyl-omega-hydroxy, also called polyoxyethylene, in or on fish, shellfish, irrigated crops, meat, milk, poultry, and eggs because no active U.S. registrations have existed since 1990.

12. *Tartar emetic.* EPA is proposing to revoke the tolerances in 40 CFR 180.179 for residues, calculated as combined antimony trioxide, in or on fruit, citrus; grape, and onion because no active U.S. registrations have existed for their associated commodity uses since 1992.

13. *1,1,1-Trichloroethane.* EPA is proposing to revoke the tolerance exemption in 40 CFR 180.1012 for residues of 1,1,1-trichloroethane when used in the postharvest fumigation of citrus fruits because no active U.S. registrations have existed since 1989.

14. *Tridiphane.* On September 26, 2001 (66 FR 49184)(FRL-6802-1), EPA published a notice in the **Federal Register** under section 6(f)(1) of FIFRA announcing its receipt of a request from the registrant for cancellation of the last active tridiphane product registration. EPA approved the registrants' request for voluntary cancellation and issued a cancellation order with an effective date of April 5, 2002 which allowed the registrant to sell and distribute existing stocks of the canceled product until July 17, 2002. The Agency believes that there has been sufficient time for end users to

exhaust those existing stocks and for treated commodities to clear the channels of trade. Therefore, EPA is proposing to revoke the tolerances in 40 CFR 180.424 for residues of 2-(3,5-dichlorophenyl)-2-(2,2,2-trichloroethyl)-oxirane, called tridiphane, in or on corn, grain, field; corn, forage; and corn, stover.

15. *Triforine.* On December 24, 1997 (62 FR 67365)(FRL-5761-8), EPA published a notice in the **Federal Register** under section 6(f)(1) of FIFRA announcing its receipt of a request from the registrant to amend a triforine product registration and delete certain triforine uses, including almonds, apples, apricots, asparagus, blueberries, cherries, cranberries, nectarines, plums, and prunes. EPA approved the registrants' requests for voluntary deletion of these uses and allowed a period of 18 months for the registrant to sell and distribute existing stocks (until approximately the end of 1999). Also, on July 31, 1998 (63 FR 41145)(FRL-6015-8), EPA published a notice in the **Federal Register** which announced cancellation of a triforine registration for non-payment of 1998 maintenance fee and issuance of a cancellation order which permitted the registrant to sell and distribute existing stocks of the canceled product until January 15, 1999.

The Agency believes that end users had sufficient time (at least 3½ years beyond the endpoint for sale and distribution by registrants) to exhaust those existing stocks and for treated commodities to have cleared the channels of trade. Therefore, EPA is proposing to revoke the tolerances in 40 CFR 180.382(a) for residues of triforine in or on almond, hulls; almond; apple; apricot; bell pepper; blueberry; cantaloupe; cherry; cranberry; cucumber; eggplant; hop, dried cone; hop, spent; nectarine; peach; plum; plum, prune, fresh; strawberry; and watermelon; and in § 180.382(c) for residues of triforine in or on asparagus because no active U.S. registrations exist which cover those commodities.

B. What is the Agency's Authority for Taking this Action?

A "tolerance" represents the maximum level for residues of pesticide chemicals legally allowed in or on raw agricultural commodities and processed foods. Section 408 of FFDCA, 21 U.S.C. 301 et seq., as amended by the FQPA of 1996, Public Law 104-170, authorizes the establishment of tolerances, exemptions from tolerance requirements, modifications in tolerances, and revocation of tolerances for residues of pesticide chemicals in or on raw agricultural commodities and

processed foods (21 U.S.C. 346(a)). Without a tolerance or exemption, food containing pesticide residues is considered to be unsafe and therefore "adulterated" under section 402(a) of the FFDCA. Such food may not be distributed in interstate commerce (21 U.S.C. 331(a) and 342(a)). For a food-use pesticide to be sold and distributed, the pesticide must not only have appropriate tolerances under the FFDCA, but also must be registered under FIFRA (7 U.S.C. et seq.). Food-use pesticides not registered in the United States must have tolerances in order for commodities treated with those pesticides to be imported into the United States.

EPA's general practice is to propose revocation of tolerances for residues of pesticide active ingredients on crops for which FIFRA registrations no longer exist and on which the pesticide may therefore no longer be used in the United States. EPA has historically been concerned that retention of tolerances that are not necessary to cover residues in or on legally treated foods may encourage misuse of pesticides within the United States. Nonetheless, EPA will establish and maintain tolerances even when corresponding domestic uses are canceled if the tolerances, which EPA refers to as "import tolerances," are necessary to allow importation into the United States of food containing such pesticide residues. However, where there are no imported commodities that require these import tolerances, the Agency believes it is appropriate to revoke tolerances for unregistered pesticides in order to prevent potential misuse.

Furthermore, as a general matter, the Agency believes that retention of import tolerances not needed to cover any imported food may result in unnecessary restriction on trade of pesticides and foods. Under section 408 of the FFDCA, a tolerance may only be established or maintained if EPA determines that the tolerance is safe based on a number of factors, including an assessment of the aggregate exposure to the pesticide and an assessment of the cumulative effects of such pesticide and other substances that have a common mechanism of toxicity. In doing so, EPA must consider potential contributions to such exposure from all tolerances. If the cumulative risk is such that the tolerances in aggregate are not safe, then every one of these tolerances is potentially vulnerable to revocation. Furthermore, if unneeded tolerances are included in the aggregate and cumulative risk assessments, the estimated exposure to the pesticide would be inflated. Consequently, it may