

Electronic comments can be sent directly to EPA at:
opp-docket@epamail.epa.gov

Electronic comments must be submitted as an ASCII file avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption. Comment and data will also be accepted on disks in Wordperfect 5.1/6.1 or ASCII file format. All comments and data in electronic form must be identified by the docket number [OPP-30456]. Electronic comments on this notice may be filed online at many Federal Depository Libraries.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 136.

List of Subjects

Environmental protection, Pesticides and pests, Product registration.

Dated: May 22, 1998.

Janet L. Andersen,

Director, Biopesticides and Pollution Prevention Division, Office of Pesticide Programs.

[FR Doc. 98-15741 Filed 6-11-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-F

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[PF-809; FRL-5792-7]

Notice of Filing of Pesticide Petitions

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the initial filing of a pesticide petition proposing to establish an exemption from the requirement of a tolerance for copper ammonium complex in or on all raw agricultural commodities.

DATES: Comments, identified by the docket control number PF-809, must be received on or before July 13, 1998.

ADDRESSES: By mail submit written comments to: Public Information and Records Integrity Branch, Information Resources and Services Division (7502C), Office of Pesticides Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460. In person bring comments to: Rm. 119, CM #2, 1921 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA.

Comments and data may also be submitted electronically by following the instructions under "SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION." No confidential business information should be submitted through e-mail.

Information submitted as a comment concerning this document may be claimed confidential by marking any part or all of that information as "Confidential Business Information" (CBI). CBI should not be submitted through e-mail. Information marked as CBI will not be disclosed except in accordance with procedures set forth in 40 CFR part 2. A copy of the comment that does not contain CBI must be submitted for inclusion in the public record. Information not marked confidential may be disclosed publicly by EPA without prior notice. All written comments will be available for public inspection in Rm. 119 at the address given above, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: The product manager listed in the table below:

Product Manager	Office location/telephone number	Address
Cynthia Giles-Parker	Rm. 247, CM #2, 703-305-7740, e-mail: giles-parker.cynthia@epamail.epa.gov.	1921 Jefferson Davis Hwy, Arlington, VA

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: EPA has received a pesticide petition as follows from Chemical Specialties, Inc., One Woodlawn Green, Suite 250, Charlotte, N.C. 28217, proposing pursuant to section 408(d) of the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, 21 U.S.C. 346a(d), to amend 40 CFR part 180 to establish an exemption from the requirement of a tolerance for copper ammonium complex in or on all raw agricultural commodities when used in accordance with good agricultural practice as an active ingredient in pesticide formulations applied to growing crops. EPA has not fully evaluated the sufficiency of the submitted data at this time or whether the data supports granting of the petition. Additional data may be needed before EPA rules on the petition.

The official record for this notice of filing, as well as the public version, has been established for this notice of filing under docket control number [PF-809] (including comments and data submitted electronically as described below). A public version of this record, including printed, paper versions of electronic comments, which does not include any information claimed as CBI,

is available for inspection from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. The official record is located at the address in "ADDRESSES" at the beginning of this document.

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List of Subjects

Environmental protection, Agricultural commodities, Food additives, Feed additives, Pesticides and pests, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

Dated: June 2, 1998.

James Jones,

Director, Registration Division, Office of Pesticide Programs.

Summaries of Petitions

Petitioner summary of the pesticide petition is printed below as required by section 408(d)(3) of the FFDCA. The summary of the petition was prepared by the petitioner and represents the views of the petitioner. EPA is publishing the petition summary verbatim without editing them in any way.

Chemical Specialties, Inc.

PP 8F4959

EPA has received a pesticide petition (PP 8F4959) from Chemical Specialties, Inc., One Woodlawn Green, Suite 250, Charlotte, N.C. 28217, proposing pursuant to section 408(d) of the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, 21 U.S.C. 346a(d), to amend 40 CFR part 180 to establish an exemption from the requirement of a tolerance for copper ammonium complex in or on all raw agricultural commodities when used in accordance with good agricultural

practice as an active ingredient in pesticide formulations applied to growing crops. EPA has determined that the petition contains data or information regarding the elements set forth in section 408(d)(2) of the FFDCA; however, EPA has not fully evaluated the sufficiency of the submitted data at this time or whether the data supports granting of the petition. Additional data may be needed before EPA rules on the petition.

A. Residue Chemistry

1. *Plant metabolism.* No plant metabolism studies have been submitted in support of this tolerance exemption petition since copper ammonium complex forms, upon aqueous dilution, copper hydroxide. Accordingly, the actual plant residue is copper, which is an essential trace element critical for the propagation of plants.

2. *Analytical method.* Since the petitioner has requested a tolerance exemption, a residue analytical method is not required.

3. *Magnitude of residues.* No crop residue studies were conducted since copper is naturally found at significant levels (> 1 ppm) in many different types of food. In addition, residue trials are not practical since it is very difficult to distinguish copper residues from naturally occurring copper versus copper residues from copper ammonium complex.

B. Toxicological Profile

Acute toxicity. The acute oral LD_{50} for a 31.4% solution of copper ammonium complex is approximately than 2,200 milligrams/kilogram (mg/kg). Accordingly, copper ammonium complex is relatively non-toxic by the oral route.

The petitioner has requested that the Agency waive all sub-chronic, chronic/ oncogenicity, mutagenicity, developmental and reproductive toxicity study requirements for copper ammonium complex. The basis for this request is that the dietary residue is copper and the Agency has previously concluded (refer to the Toxicology Chapter for Group II Copper Compounds) that:

1. Copper is essential for well-being in humans.

2. Humans possess a natural efficient homeostatic mechanism for regulating copper body levels over a wide range of dietary intake.

3. There is an overwhelming lack of evidence for any chronic effects induced by dietary ingestion of copper unless the intake is of such enormous magnitude that there is a disruption of the natural

homeostatic mechanism for controlling body levels.

C. Aggregate Exposure

1. *Dietary exposure.* Twelve FDA total diet studies, conducted from mid 1982–1984, examined dietary intake of copper for age groups 14–16, 25–30 and 60–65 years. The copper intake ranged from 0.77 (14–16 year old females) to 1.24 mg/day (25–30 year old males).

2. *Food.* Copper is naturally found in several types of foods, such as fruits and vegetables, at levels ranging from 0.3–3.9 ppm.

3. *Drinking water.* A 1987 EPA report noted that the average copper concentration in drinking water is approximately 130 ppb and a little over 1% of drinking water exceeds the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) of 1 ppm.

4. *Non-dietary exposure.* Air concentrations of copper, based on several thousand samples assembled by EPA's Environmental Monitoring Systems Laboratory, ranges from 0.003–7.32 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.

Using the above exposure values, the petitioner estimates that the aggregate exposure to copper from food, drinking water and air ranges from < 1 to 3 mg/day. Consequently, the petitioner anticipates that the use of copper ammonium complex as a pre-harvest fungicide on established crops will, at most, make a negligible contribution to existing aggregate copper exposure.

D. Cumulative Effects

No cumulative adverse effects are expected from long-term exposure to copper ammonium copper.

E. Safety Determination

1. *U.S. population.* Several copper compounds, such as copper sulfate, are currently approved for use on food crops (40 CFR 180.1001(b)(1)). Since copper ammonium complex is a substitute for these copper compounds, and, under use-conditions, releases equivalent amounts of copper, approval of this petition will not increase dietary exposure to copper. Moreover, copper is an essential trace element for which the National Academy of Sciences has issued a recommended daily allowance of up to 3 mg/day for adults.

Accordingly, there is reasonable certainty that no harm will result from aggregate exposure of the U.S. population to copper.

2. *Infants and children.* Since copper is also an essential trace element for infants and children and the contribution to daily copper exposure from the use of copper ammonium complex is anticipated to be trivial, no

adverse effects on infants or children are expected.

F. International Tolerances

There are no approved CODEX maximum residue levels (MRLs) established for residues of copper ammonium complex.

[FR Doc. 98–15596 Filed 6–11–98; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL–6110–6]

Research Strategy for Oxygenates in Water

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of availability of external review draft.

SUMMARY: This document announces the availability of an external review draft of a document, Research Strategy for Oxygenates in Water, EPA/600/R–98/048, prepared by the Office of Research and Development of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The purpose of this document is to identify key issues related to assessing and managing the potential health and environmental risks of water contamination by oxygenates. The term oxygenates refers to chemicals added to fuels (which then may be known as “oxyfuels”) to increase the oxygen content and thereby reduce certain emissions from use of the fuel. This research strategy builds on and extends an earlier document, Oxyfuels Information Needs (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1996, EPA/600/R–96/069), which included water issues but tended to focus more on inhalation health risk issues. As a research strategy, the present document focuses on those gaps and limitations in current information that constitute the most critical and immediate needs to be addressed. The document is primarily intended to serve as a starting point and general guide to planning needed research. It is not a comprehensive review of issues related to oxygenates in water, and it does not attempt to specify in detail the specific studies and projects that may be needed. An earlier draft of this document was peer reviewed in a workshop held on October 7, 1997, in Washington, DC. Comments received on the workshop draft were considered in preparing the current external review draft.

DATES: Anyone who wishes to comment on this document may do so in writing