

community and the public. EPA is also removing the text of two reporting forms, without making any substantive changes in the reporting requirements. **EFFECTIVE DATE:** This final rule takes effect on June 19, 1995.

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SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Introduction

On March 4, 1995, the President directed all Federal agencies and departments to conduct a comprehensive review of the regulations they administer and, by June 1, 1995, to identify those rules that are obsolete, not in effect, unduly burdensome, or amenable to streamlining and simplification. The Office of Prevention, Pesticides and Toxic Substances has completed its initial page-by-page review of the CFR provisions within its purview--those issued under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), and certain sections of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) and the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA). Based on this initial review, EPA will be amending or eliminating several provisions in the CFR. This notice, which is one of several notices that are being issued at the same time, specifically involves the provisions associated with TSCA. Other notices, appearing elsewhere in this **Federal Register**, involve provisions associated with FFDCA and FIFRA.

The provisions that EPA is eliminating with this notice are not currently in effect because they have (1) expired by their own terms or by the terms of the statute, (2) become obsolete due to subsequent rulemakings, legislation, or policy decisions, or (3) because they have been otherwise identified as being unnecessary. Those provisions that are being amended with this notice reflect minor technical changes that are necessary as a result of the elimination of the provisions, are otherwise nonsubstantive corrections that are necessary, or involve the removal of the text of reporting forms without substantive changes to the reporting requirements.

The removal of these provisions from the CFR is not intended to affect the status of any civil or criminal actions

that were initiated prior to June 19, 1995 or which may be initiated in the future to redress violations of the rules that occurred when the rules were still legally in effect.

II. Good Cause Exemption from Rulemaking Procedures

The Administrative Procedure Act (APA) generally requires agencies to provide prior notice and opportunity for public comment before issuing a final rule. 5 U.S.C. 553(b). Similarly, the APA generally requires at least 30 days after publication before a rule can become effective. 5 U.S.C. 553(d). Rules are exempt from this requirement if the issuing agency finds for good cause that notice and comment or delayed effectiveness are unnecessary. 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(3)(B) and (d)(3).

EPA has determined that providing prior notice and opportunity for comment on these changes to the CFR is unnecessary. For the reasons discussed in Units I and III of this preamble, a number of the rules are no longer legally in effect; thus, withdrawing them from the CFR has no legal impact and merely codifies the current legal status of the rules. The associated technical amendments are merely to correct cross-references to the rules that are being removed and related reorganizations resulting from the removal of these regulations. In addition, other technical changes include the removal of the text of reporting forms, without making any substantive changes to the reporting requirements. For the same reasons, EPA believes there is good cause for making these changes to the CFR immediately effective. See 5 U.S.C. 553(d).

III. Regulations Being Eliminated

A. Part 704, Subparts C and D - Reporting and Recordkeeping Requirement; Comprehensive Assessment Information Rule (CAIR)

Part 704 specifies the reporting and recordkeeping procedures under section 8(a) of TSCA for manufacturers, importers, and processors of chemical substances and mixtures that are identified in subpart B or D of part 704. The reporting and recordkeeping provisions in subpart A of part 704 apply throughout this part unless revised in any other subpart. Subpart C of part 704 sets out the general reporting provisions for the Comprehensive Assessment Information Rule (CAIR). CAIR was intended to standardize certain section 8(a) rules by: providing a set of uniform questions for EPA and other agencies to use in assembling specific reporting

requirements; requiring the submission of information on a standard reporting form; and establishing uniform reporting and recordkeeping provisions that supplement the reporting and recordkeeping provisions in subpart A of part 704. CAIR provisions apply only to those persons who manufacture, import, or process a substance identified in subpart D of part 704 during the time period for which reporting is required. Subpart D of part 704 contains a matrix that identifies the substances for which EPA requires reporting under subpart C, the persons who must report the information to EPA, the information that must be reported, the coverage period (as that term is defined in § 704.203), and the effective date of the final rule.

After the first use of the CAIR in 1989, a lawsuit resulted in a stay of the effectiveness of this regulation until EPA promulgates amendments. Although amendments to this regulation were proposed in 1993, the amendments have not been finalized and EPA does not anticipate taking action for some time as it reassesses its TSCA information needs. Given the current inactive status of this regulation, EPA has decided to remove subparts C and D of part 704 from the CFR. The requirements of subpart C and D are not in effect and their presence in the CFR is confusing to the public and the regulated community. At the time EPA decides to promulgate amendments to CAIR, EPA will repromulgate subparts C and D, as appropriate.

B. Part 710 - Inventory Reporting Regulations; Compilation of the Inventory

This part establishes regulations governing reporting by certain persons who manufacture, import, or process chemical substances subject to TSCA for commercial purposes. Subpart A of this regulation was issued pursuant to TSCA Section 8(b), which requires EPA to compile an inventory of chemical substances manufactured or processed for a commercial purpose. Following an initial reporting period, EPA was required to publish an initial inventory of chemical substances manufactured or imported for commercial purposes, with revised inventories published after supplemental reporting periods.

Subpart A mandated the reporting which was used to create the initial inventory. By the terms of the regulation itself, the initial reporting period closed in 1979, meriting the deletion of subpart A from the CFR. Nevertheless, some provisions of subpart A are referenced in the Inventory Update Rule of subpart B, and are extensively used in other TSCA regulatory contexts. For this