

servicing and upon the retirement of equipment. This blend is nonflammable and does not deplete ozone.

e. Ammonia Absorption. *Ammonia absorption is acceptable as an alternative technology to household refrigerators and freezers using CFC-12 as a refrigerant.* This technology has been used for years in hotels, college dormitories, and other small spaces.

#### B. Fire Suppression and Explosion Protection

##### 1. Acceptable

a. Total Flooding Agents. (1) Water Mist Using Potable Water or Natural Seawater. *Water Mist Systems using Potable Water or Natural Seawater are acceptable as a Halon 1301 substitute.* At EPA's request, manufacturers of water mist systems and other industry partners convened a medical panel to address questions posed by EPA concerning the potential physiological effects of inhaling very small water droplets in fire and non-fire scenarios. Disciplines represented on the Panel included inhalation toxicology, pulmonary medicine, physiology, aerosol physics, fire toxicity, smoke dynamics, and chemistry, with members coming from the commercial, university and military sectors.

The Executive Summary (draft "Water Mist Fire Suppression Systems Health Hazard Evaluation;" HARC, US Army, NFPA; March 1995) states: "The overall conclusion of the Health Panel's review is that ... water mist systems using pure water do not present a toxicological or physiological hazard and are safe for use in occupied areas. The Panel does not believe that additional studies are necessary to reach this conclusion. The Health Panel recommends that additives be evaluated on a case-by-case basis depending on the toxic properties of the additive and the concentration at which it is used."

EPA has determined that the Panel's findings are credible and significant, and thus is adopting its conclusions as the basis to this ruling. In order to clarify the practical meaning of the panel's recommendation, EPA is defining "pure water" as either water that is potable (drinkable) or as natural seawater, that is, water coming from the sea. Thus, EPA is listing water mist systems composed of potable water and natural sea water as acceptable without

restriction. However, water mist systems containing additives different than those in potable water, and water mist systems comprised of mixtures in solution, must be submitted to EPA for SNAP review on a case-by-case basis. At this time, no such submissions have been received by the agency.

(2) [Water Mist/Surfactant Blend] A. *[Water Mist/Surfactant Blend] A is acceptable as a Halon 1301 substitute in normally unoccupied areas.* Water mist systems with additives are beginning to be developed for use in applications such as the engine compartments of a variety of vehicles and in machinery spaces. Following the positive peer review of water mist particles, and considering the particular use in unoccupied areas, EPA is listing this agent as acceptable in such normally unoccupied areas. Consideration for use in occupied areas is pending a medical peer review panel.

b. Streaming Agents. (1) Water Mist Systems Using Potable Water or Natural Seawater. *Water Mist systems using potable water or natural sea water are acceptable as a Halon 1211 substitute.* See the discussion under "Total Flooding Agents," above.

#### C. Medical Sterilants

##### 1. Acceptable

(a) Peroxyacetic Acid/Hydrogen Peroxide Gas Plasma Systems. *Peroxyacetic Acid/Gas Plasma Systems are acceptable as a 12/88 substitute for medical sterilization.* Peracetic acid/hydrogen peroxide solutions are in widespread use as sanitizers and disinfectants in food processing establishments and medical facilities. As they are currently manufactured, transported, and handled safely, incorporation of such solutions into medical sterilizing equipment should not pose increased risk of exposure either during value-added packaging or during use.

(b) Hydrogen Peroxide Gas Plasma Systems. *Hydrogen Peroxide Gas Plasma Systems are acceptable as a 12/88 substitute for medical sterilization.* Such systems are recognized by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) as acceptable to proceed to market, and EPA has determined that they pose no unusual risk to human health or the environment.

### III. Substitutes Pending Review

The Agency describes submissions as pending if data are incomplete or for which the 90-day review period is underway and EPA has not yet reached a final decision. For submissions that are incomplete, the Agency will contact the submitter to determine a schedule for providing the missing information if the Agency needs to extend the 90-day review period. EPA will use its authority under section 114 of the Clean Air Act to gather this information, if necessary. Any delay of the review period does not affect a manufacturer's ability to sell a product 90 days after notification of the Agency. Substitutes currently pending completion of review are listed in Appendix A.

### IV. Additional Information

Contact the Stratospheric Protection Hotline at 1-800-296-1996, Monday-Friday, between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. (Eastern Standard Time) weekdays.

For more information on the Agency's process for administering the SNAP program or criteria for evaluation of substitutes, refer to the SNAP final rulemaking published in the **Federal Register** on March 18, 1994 (59 FR 13044). **Federal Register** notices can be ordered from the Government Printing Office Order Desk (202) 783-3238; the citation is the date of publication. This Notice can also be retrieved electronically from EPA's Technology Transfer Network (TTN), Clean Air Act Amendment Bulletin Board. If you have a 1200 or 2400 bps modem, dial (919) 541-5742. If you have a 9600 bps modem, dial (919) 541-1447. For assistance in accessing this service, call (919) 541-5384. Finally, this notice may be obtained on the World Wide Web at <http://www.epa.gov/docs/Ozone/index.html>.

#### List of Subjects in 40 CFR Part 82

Environmental protection, Administrative practice and procedure, Air pollution control, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

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**Mary D. Nichols,**

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**Note:** The following Appendix will not appear in the Code of Federal Regulations.