equivalent method and a reference method.

The new equivalent method for the determination of lead in suspended particulate matter collected from ambient air uses a graphite furnace atomic absorption method and is identified as follows:

EQL–0895–107, ''Determination of Lead Concentration in Ambient Particulate Matter by Flameless (Graphite Furnace) Atomic Absorption (City of Houston, Texas).''

The applicant's request for an equivalent method determination for the above method was received on May 23, 1995. This method has been tested by the applicant, the Health and Human Services Department of Houston, Texas, in accordance with the test procedures prescribed in 40 CFR part 53. After reviewing the results of these tests and other information submitted by the applicant, EPA has determined, in accordance with part 53, that this method should be designated as an equivalent method.

This method uses the sampling procedure specified in the reference method for the determination of lead in suspended particulate matter collected from ambient air (43 FR 46258). Lead in the particulate matter is solubilized by extraction with nitric acid facilitated by heat. The lead content of the sample is analyzed by a Perkin Elmer HGA graphite furnace with Zeeman background correction and AS–40 Autosampler. Technical questions concerning the method should be directed to the City of Houston, Health and Human Services Department, Environmental Chemistry Service, 1115 S. Braeswood, Houston, Texas 77030.

The information submitted by the three applicants will be kept on file at EPA's National Exposure Research Laboratory, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina 27711 and will be available for inspection to the extent consistent with 40 CFR part 2 (EPA's regulations implementing the Freedom of Information Act).

As a designated reference or equivalent method, each of these methods is acceptable for use by States and other air monitoring agencies under the requirements of 40 CFR part 58, Ambient Air Quality Surveillance. For such purposes, each method must be used in strict accordance with the operation or instruction manual associated with the method or the procedures and specifications provided in the method description and subject to any limitations (e.g., operating temperature range) specified in the applicable designation (see description of the methods above). Vendor modifications of a designated method used for purposes of part 58 are permitted only with prior approval of EPA, as provided in part 53. Provisions concerning modification of such methods by users are specified under Section 2.8 of Appendix C to 40 CFR part 58 (Modifications of Methods by Users).

In general, a designation applies to any analyzer which is identical to the analyzer described in the designation. In some cases, similar analyzers manufactured prior to the designation may be upgraded (e.g., by minor modification or by substitution of a new operation or instruction manual) so as to be identical to the designated method and thus achieve designated status at a modest cost. The manufacturer should be consulted to determine the feasibility of such upgrading. States or other agencies using a graphite furnace atomic absorption method that employs procedures and specifications significantly different from those in method EQL–0895–107 must seek approval for their particular method under the provisions of Section 2.8 of Appendix C to 40 CFR part 58 (Modification of Methods by Users) or may seek designation of such a method as an equivalent method under the provisions of 40 CFR part 53.

Part 53 requires that sellers of designated method analyzers comply with certain conditions. These conditions are given in 40 CFR 53.9 and are summarized below:

(1) A copy of the approved operation or instruction manual must accompany the analyzer when it is delivered to the ultimate purchaser.

(2) The analyzer must not generate any unreasonable hazard to operators or to the environment.

(3) The analyzer must function within the limits of the performance specifications given in Table B–1 of part 53 for at least one year after delivery when maintained and operated in accordance with the operation manual.

(4) Any analyzer offered for sale as a reference or equivalent method must bear a label or sticker indicating that it has been designated as a reference or equivalent method in accordance with part 53.

(5) If such an analyzer has two or more selectable ranges, the label or sticker must be placed in close proximity to the range selector and indicate which range or ranges have been included in the reference or equivalent method designation.

(6) An applicant who offers analyzers for sale as reference or equivalent methods is required to maintain a list of ultimate purchasers of such analyzers and to notify them within 30 days if a reference or equivalent method designation applicable to the analyzer has been canceled or if adjustment of the analyzer is necessary under 40 CFR 53.11(b) to avoid a cancellation.

(7) An applicant who modifies an analyzer previously designated as a reference or equivalent method is not permitted to sell the analyzer (as modified) as a reference or equivalent method (although he may choose to sell it without such representation), nor to attach a label or sticker to the analyzer (as modified) under the provisions described above, until the applicant has received notice under 40 CFR 53.14(c) that the original designation or a new designation applies to the method as modified, or until the applicant has applied for and received notice under 40 CFR 53.8(b) of a new reference or equivalent method determination for the analyzer as modified.

Aside from occasional breakdowns or malfunctions, consistent or repeated noncompliance with any of these conditions should be reported to: Director, National Exposure Research Laboratory, Air Measurements Research Division (MD–78A), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina 27711.

Designation of these reference and equivalent methods is intended to assist the States in establishing and operating their air quality surveillance systems under part 58. Technical questions concerning any of the methods should be directed to the applicant. Additional information concerning this action may be obtained from Frank F. McElroy, Air Measurements Research Division (MD–77), National Exposure Research Laboratory, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina 27711, (919) 541–2622.

J.K. Alexander,

Acting Assistant Administrator for Research and Development.

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BILLING CODE 6560–50–M

Acid Rain Division

[FRL–5269–4]

Acid Rain Provisions

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: EPA today announces the allocation of allowances to small diesel refineries for desulfurization of fuel