

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

G/TBT/Notif.99.546
29 October 1999

(99-4701)

Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

NOTIFICATION

The following notification is being circulated in accordance with Article 10.6.

1.	Member to Agreement notifying: <u>UNITED STATES</u> If applicable, name of local government involved (Articles 3.2 and 7.2):
2.	Agency responsible: Environmental Protection Agency (39) Agency or authority designated to handle comments regarding the notification shall be indicated if different from above:
3.	Notified under Article 2.9.2 [X], 2.10.1 [], 5.6.2 [], 5.7.1 [], other:
4.	Products covered (HS or CCCN where applicable, otherwise national tariff heading. ICS numbers may be provided in addition, where applicable): Pesticide Containers
5.	Title, number of pages and language(s) of the notified document: Standards for Pesticide Containers and Containment (27 pages, in English)
6.	Description of content: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a proposed rule in the Federal Register proposing container design and residue removal requirements for refillable and non-refillable pesticide containers and standards for pesticide containment structures. EPA is today reopening the comment period to obtain public comment on three issues brought out in the comments on the proposed rule or by recently enacted legislation and on one other issue. EPA is considering changes that would reduce the scope of the container standards, add an exemption for certain antimicrobial pesticides, and adopt some of the Department of Transportation (DOT) hazardous materials regulations. EPA is also seeking comment on the definition for small business used to identify small pesticide formulators, agrichemical dealers and commercial pesticide applicators in the small entity impact analysis. These potential changes, if adopted in the final rule, would support EPA's goal of pollution prevention by promoting the use of refillable containers and would harmonize and promote consistency within the Federal packaging standards by adopting the DOT standards. In addition, the changes would decrease the estimated economic impact by reducing the number of pesticide products subject to the container requirements compared to the original proposal.
7.	Objective and rationale, including the nature of urgent problems where applicable: To harmonize the classification and labelling of chemicals for human and environmental hazards.
8.	Relevant documents: 64 FR 56918, 21 October 1999 and 59 FR 6712, 11 February 1994; 40 CFR Part 165. Will appear in the Federal Register when adopted.

9.	Proposed date of adoption: To be determined Proposed date of entry into force:
10.	Final date for comments: 20 December 1999
11.	Texts available from: National enquiry point [X] or address, e-mail and telefax number of the other body: http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/index.html