

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**[OPPTS-00200; FRL-5570-3]****1996 Master Testing List; Notice of Availability****AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).**ACTION:** Notice.

SUMMARY: This Notice announces the availability of and solicits comments on EPA's 1996 Master Testing List (MTL). The MTL is an important component of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) Chemicals Program in the Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics in EPA's Office of Prevention, Pesticides and Toxic Substances. EPA's TSCA Chemicals Program is responsible for assessing and managing human health and environmental risks that may be posed by exposure to new and existing chemicals. EPA has been using the MTL since 1990 to establish the Agency's Chemical Testing Program agenda under TSCA.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Requests for paper copies of the 1996 Master Testing List (MTL) should be addressed to: Susan B. Hazen, Director, Environmental Assistance Division (7408), Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics, Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460, Telephone: (202) 554-1404, TDD: (202) 554-0557, e-mail: TSCA-Hotline@epamail.epa.gov.

ADDRESSES: Written comments regarding the 1996 Master Testing List should be sent in triplicate and identified by the docket number OPPTS-00200 to: TSCA Public Docket (7407), Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics, Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460.

Comments may also be submitted electronically by sending electronic mail (e-mail) to: oppt.ncic@epamail.epa.gov. Electronic comments must be submitted as an ASCII file avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption. Comments will also be accepted on disks in WordPerfect 5.1 file format or ASCII file format. All comments in electronic form must be identified by the docket number OPPTS-00200. No TSCA Confidential Business Information (CBI) should be submitted through e-mail. Electronic comments on this document may be filed online at many Federal Depository Libraries. Additional information on electronic submissions can be found in the

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION unit of this document.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Electronic Availability: EPA is also in the process of placing the 1996 MTL on the Chemical Testing and Information Branch/OPPT "Home Page" on the Agency's World Wide Web/Internet site. Persons wishing to access the 1996 MTL as well as other information related to EPA's Chemical Testing Program via EPA's World Wide Web/Internet site should use the following Uniform Resource Locator (URL): <http://www.epa.gov/opptintr/main/ctibhome.htm>. The 1996 MTL is also being made available to the public via EPA's gopher server (<gopher://gopher.epa.gov>).

Under section 4 of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), EPA has the authority to require chemical manufacturers (including importers) and processors to test chemicals. Specifically, EPA has the authority to promulgate TSCA section 4 Test Rules after finding that: (1) A chemical substance may present an unreasonable risk of injury to human health or the environment, or the chemical is produced in substantial quantities which could result in significant or substantial human or environmental exposure, and (2) available data to evaluate the chemical substance are inadequate, and (3) testing is needed to develop the necessary data. EPA's TSCA Chemical Testing Program also works closely with members of the chemical industry to develop needed test data by way of TSCA section 4 Enforceable Consent Agreements (ECAs) and Voluntary Testing Agreements (VTAs). A number of these ECAs and VTAs have been accompanied by voluntary product stewardship program agreements between EPA and the producer(s)/importer(s) of a given chemical or group of chemicals. In these voluntary agreements, which can be captured in some cases via a formal "Memorandum of Understanding" (MOU), companies commit to undertake a variety of product stewardship activities and agree to provide to EPA periodic progress reports describing their ongoing efforts and improvements in handling the chemical(s) in question.

This notice announces the availability of EPA's 1996 Master Testing List (MTL). The major purposes of the MTL are to:

- (1) Identify the chemical testing needs of the Federal Government (including EPA) and international programs of interest to the United States.
- (2) Focus limited EPA resources on the highest priority chemical testing needs.

(3) Publicize EPA's testing priorities for industrial chemicals.

(4) Obtain broad public comment on EPA's TSCA Chemical Testing Program and its priorities.

(5) Encourage initiatives by industry to provide EPA with the priority data needs identified on the MTL.

Since 1992, EPA has added more than 300 specific chemicals and 4 new categories to the MTL and has removed over 100 chemicals from the MTL. It is important to note that most of the chemicals removed from the MTL were removed because testing was completed for those chemicals. The MTL now contains over 500 specific chemicals and 13 categories and presents EPA's Chemical Testing Program's priorities for 1996-1998.

EPA believes that many chemical companies with product stewardship programs will recognize the importance of promptly filling the data needs cited on the MTL. The identification of the data needs on the MTL provides an opportunity for responsible companies to initiate voluntary activities to develop the needed data for their own MTL-listed chemicals. In those instances in which companies decline this opportunity, EPA is put in the position of having to initiate formal regulatory actions such as promulgating TSCA section 4 Test Rules.

EPA invites written comments from any person interested in the development of the MTL. In particular, EPA is interested in comments on the approach the Agency takes to identify priority testing needs. EPA is also interested in comments on the categories of chemicals described in the MTL. Comments in this regard may affect how these categories are ultimately ranked and may influence how EPA proceeds in obtaining needed toxicity and/or exposure data on the chemicals within those categories. EPA is also interested in identifying other categories of chemicals that may deserve further evaluation.

A record has been established for this notice under docket number "OPPTS-00200" (including comments 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 noon to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. The public record is located in the TSCA Nonconfidential Information Center, Rm. NE-B607, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460.

Electronic comments can be sent directly to EPA at: oppt.ncic@epamail.epa.gov

Electronic comments must be submitted as an ASCII file avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption.

The official record for this notice, as well as the public version, as described above will be kept in paper form. Accordingly, EPA will transfer all comments received electronically into printed, paper form as they are received and will place the paper copies in the official record which will also include all comments submitted directly in writing. The official record is the paper record maintained at the address in "ADDRESSES" at the beginning of this document.

Dated: December 9, 1996.

Charles M. Auer,

Director, Chemical Control Division, Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics.

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