

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL-5517-1]

Accidental Release Prevention Requirements: Risk Management Programs Under Section 112(r)(7) of the Clean Air Act as Amended; Guidances**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency.**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: Section 112(r)(7) of the Clean Air Act (CAA), as amended, requires the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to develop guidance documents, including model risk management plans, to assist stationary sources in the development of risk management programs. EPA is issuing three guidance documents that are available for review in Docket No. A-91-73 Category VIII-A: "RMP Offsite Consequence Analysis Guidance"; "Model Risk Management Program and Plan for Ammonia Refrigeration" and "Risk Management Plan Data Elements." The Agency views the Guidances issued today as "evergreen" documents and is interested in continued dialogue on the Guidances with interested members of the public. The Agency anticipates it will revise and update these Guidances from time to time as stakeholders and the Agency proceed in implementing the Risk Management Program regulations.

ADDRESSES:

Docket. These documents are in Docket A-91-73 Category VIII-A and available for public inspection and copying between 8:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, including all non-Governmental holidays, at EPA's Air and Radiation Docket and Information Center, room M1500, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (6102), 401 M Street S.W., Washington, D.C. 20460.

Electronic Access. These documents can be accessed in electronic format through the Internet system and through EPA's Technology Transfer Network (TTN), a network of electronic bulletin boards operated by the Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards. The Internet address of EPA's gopher server is GOPHER.EPA.GOV. This information is also available using File Transfer Protocol (FTP) on FTP.EPA.GOV or using World Wide Web (WWW) (<http://www.epa.gov/swercepp/>).

The TTN service is free, except for the cost of a phone call. To access the TTN, dial (919) 541-5742 for up to a 14,400 bits per second (bps) modem. If more information on TTN is needed, contact the systems operator at (919) 541-5382.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For technical information on the "Model Risk Management Program and Plan for Ammonia Refrigeration" and "Risk Management Plan Data Elements," contact Dr. Lyse Helsing, at (202) 260-6128. For technical information on the "MP Offsite Consequence Analysis Guidance," contact Craig Matthiessen, at (202) 260-9781. To obtain copies of these documents, please FAX requests to the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Information Hotline (Hotline) at (703) 412-3333. The Hotline is also available to answer questions at (800) 535-0202 or (703) 412-9877 when calling from local Washington, D.C. area.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: EPA announces the availability of Guidances that will assist stationary sources in complying with the provisions of the regulations implementing CAA section 112(r)(7)(B), part 68, including the requirement to prepare risk management plans. The documents made available today are guidances and do not create any obligations on the part of entities subject to part 68. These Guidances do not substitute for EPA's regulations, nor are they regulations themselves. The Guidances do not impose legally binding requirements on EPA, States, or the regulated community, and may not apply to a particular situation based upon the circumstances. EPA may change these Guidances in the future, as appropriate.

Elsewhere in today's Federal Register, EPA has promulgated Risk Management Program regulations under part 68 in order to implement CAA section 112(r)(7). For information on these regulations, please see the above-referenced notice. Furthermore, for information on chemicals, sources, and processes subject to part 68, please see 40 CFR part 68 and the notice establishing these provisions (59 FR 4478, January 31, 1994). Finally, readers should note that, elsewhere in today's Federal Register, EPA has promulgated a stay of certain provisions of part 68 promulgated in the January 1994 rulemaking.

The "RMP Offsite Consequence Analysis Guidance" contains all the methodologies and reference tables that will be necessary to develop and analyze the consequences of worst case and alternative case scenarios for part 68. This Guidance is designed to help those sources subject to part 68 comply with the offsite consequence requirements without specific expertise or access to computer-based and more sophisticated modeling tools. Sources will be able to use the modeling results contained in this Guidance or other appropriate modeling results in complying with part 68.

The "Model Risk Management Program and Plan for Ammonia Refrigeration" is a model program and plan that will help owners and operators of ammonia refrigeration facilities comply with part 68. The Guidance includes a section on hazard assessment and on emergency response, and four appendices: (A) selection of scenarios; (B) background information on ammonia modeling; (C) effect of ammonia releases on structures; and (D) information about accidental ammonia releases.

EPA views both of the above-mentioned Guidances to be "evergreen." That is, while EPA is issuing these Guidances today, EPA will continue to seek public input and revise these documents as appropriate.

Part 68 requires the submission of risk management plans in a form and manner to be specified by EPA. The Risk Management Data Elements maps out the kinds of information that would be submitted by each source as its risk management plan. The draft includes an executive summary, registration, data on worst case and alternative releases for toxics and for flammables, five-year accident history, prevention program, and emergency response program. Like the other Guidances today, EPA intends to continue to seek public input on the format of submittal of the data required by part 68. In particular, EPA will study new methods for information submittal and public access to such information when it develops the information collection.

Dated: May 31, 1996.
Jim Makris,
Director, Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention Office.

[FR Doc. 96-14627 Filed 6-19-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P