

Commodity	Parts per million
* * * * *	*
Fruits, citrus, crop group 10	2.0
Fruits, pome, crop group 11	5.0
* * * * *	*
Grapes	5.0
* * * * *	*
Raisins	10.0
* * * * *	*
Vegetable, cucurbit, melon, crop subgroup 9-A	0.5
* * * * *	*

[FR Doc. 00-5046 Filed 3-1-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-F

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Part 180

[OPP-300980; FRL-6493-2]

RIN 2070-AB78

Imidacloprid; Time-Limited Pesticide Tolerance

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: This regulation establishes a time-limited tolerance for the combined residues of imidacloprid and its metabolites containing the 6-chloropyridinyl moiety in or on corn, field fodder, forage, and grain. Gustafson, Incorporated requested this tolerance under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA), as amended by the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA) of 1996. The tolerance will expire on December 31, 2000.

DATES: This regulation is effective March 2, 2000. Objections and requests for hearings, identified by docket control number OPP-300980, must be received by EPA on or before May 1, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Written objections and hearing requests may be submitted by mail, in person, or by courier. Please follow the detailed instructions for each method as provided in Unit VI. of the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.** To ensure proper receipt by EPA, your objections and hearing requests must identify docket control number OPP-300980 in the subject line on the first page of your response.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: By mail: Peg Perreault, Registration

Division (7505C), Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, Ariel Rios Bldg., 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20460; telephone number: (703) 305-5417; and e-mail address: Perreault.Peg@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. General Information

A. Does This Action Apply to Me?

You may be affected by this action if you are an agricultural producer, food manufacturer, or pesticide manufacturer. Potentially affected categories and entities may include, but are not limited to:

Categories	NAICS codes	Examples of potentially affected entities
Industry	111	Crop production
	112	Animal production
	311	Food manufacturing
	32532	Pesticide manufacturing

This listing is not intended to be exhaustive, but rather provides a guide for readers regarding entities likely to be affected by this action. Other types of entities not listed in the table could also be affected. The North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS) codes have been provided to assist you and others in determining whether or not this action might apply to certain entities. If you have questions regarding the applicability of this action to a particular entity, consult the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT.**

B. How Can I Get Additional Information, Including Copies of This Document and Other Related Documents?

1. *Electronically.* You may obtain electronic copies of this document, and certain other related documents that might be available electronically, from the EPA Internet Home Page at <http://www.epa.gov/>. To access this document, on the Home Page select "Laws and Regulations" and then look up the entry for this document under the "Federal Register—Environmental Documents." You can also go directly to the **Federal Register** listings at <http://www.epa.gov/fedrgrstr/>.

2. *In person.* The Agency has established an official record for this action under docket control number

OPP-300980. The official record consists of the documents specifically referenced in this action, and other information related to this action, including any information claimed as Confidential Business Information (CBI). This official record includes the documents that are physically located in the docket, as well as the documents that are referenced in those documents. The public version of the official record does not include any information claimed as CBI. The public version of the official record, which includes printed, paper versions of any electronic comments submitted during an applicable comment period is available for inspection in the Public Information and Records Integrity Branch (PIRIB), Rm. 119, Crystal Mall #2, 1921 Jefferson Davis Hwy., Arlington, VA, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. The PIRIB telephone number is (703) 305-5805.

II. Background and Statutory Findings

In the **Federal Register** of June 25, 1997 (62 FR 34269) (FRL-5719-6), EPA issued a notice pursuant to section 408 of the FFDCA, 21 U.S.C. 346a as amended by the FQPA of 1996 (Public Law 104-170) announcing the filing of a pesticide petition (PP) for tolerance by Gustafson, Incorporated, P.O. Box 660065, Dallas, TX 75255-0065. This notice included a summary of the petition prepared by Gustafson, Incorporated, the registrant. There were no comments received in response to the notice of filing.

The petition requested that 40 CFR 180.472(a) be amended by establishing tolerances for combined residues of the insecticide imidacloprid, (1-[(6-chloro-3-pyridinyl)methyl]-N-nitro-2-imidazolidinimine) and its metabolites containing the 6-chloropyridinyl moiety, all expressed as (1-[(6-chloro-3-pyridinyl)methyl]-N-nitro-2-imidazolidinimine), in or on corn, field fodder at 0.2 parts per million (ppm), corn, field forage at 0.1 ppm, and corn, field grain at 0.05 ppm. The tolerances will expire on December 31, 2000. Time-limited tolerances are being established based on EPA's initial review of the crop field trial data for seed-treatment of field corn, which indicates that the data support the proposed tolerances for combined residues of imidacloprid and its metabolites containing the 6-chloropyridinyl moiety. The time-limited tolerances for field corn are being established until a full review of

the residue data is completed and permanent tolerances are established.

Section 408(b)(2)(A)(i) of the FFDCA allows EPA to establish a tolerance (the legal limit for a pesticide chemical residue in or on a food) only if EPA determines that the tolerance is "safe." Section 408(b)(2)(A)(ii) defines "safe" to mean that "there is a reasonable certainty that no harm will result from aggregate exposure to the pesticide chemical residue, including all anticipated dietary exposures and all other exposures for which there is reliable information." This includes exposure through drinking water and in residential settings, but does not include occupational exposure. Section 408(b)(2)(C) requires EPA to give special consideration to exposure of infants and children to the pesticide chemical residue in establishing a tolerance and to "ensure that there is a reasonable certainty that no harm will result to infants and children from aggregate exposure to the pesticide chemical residue."

EPA performs a number of analyses to determine the risks from aggregate exposure to pesticide residues. For further discussion of the regulatory requirements of section 408 and a complete description of the risk assessment process, see the final rule on Bifenthrin Pesticide Tolerances (62 FR 62961, November 26, 1997) (FRL-5754-7).

III. Aggregate Risk Assessment and Determination of Safety

Consistent with section 408(b)(2)(D), EPA has reviewed the available scientific data and other relevant information in support of this action. EPA has sufficient data to assess the hazards of and to make a determination on aggregate exposure, consistent with section 408(b)(2), for tolerances for combined residues of imidacloprid on corn, field fodder, forage, and grain at 0.2, 0.1, and 0.05 ppm, respectively. EPA's assessment of the exposures and risks associated with establishing the tolerance was included in the preamble to two separate final rules on imidacloprid pesticide tolerances, published in the **Federal Register** on September 18, 1998 (63 FR 49837) (FRL-6027-1) and August 2, 1999 (64 FR 41804) (FRL-6090-2). The risk assessment supporting the tolerance actions in the August 2, 1999 **Federal Register** Notice also, assumed that tolerances would be established on corn, field fodder, forage, and grain at 0.2, 0.1, and 0.05 ppm, respectively. Accordingly, the analysis and findings in the August 2, 1999 preamble apply equally to the tolerances for corn, field

fodder, forage, and grain being established by this final rule and EPA reaffirms those findings in promulgating this rule.

IV. Other Considerations

A. Metabolism in Plants and Animals

Data concerning the metabolism of imidacloprid in apples, potatoes, tomatoes, eggplant, cottonseed, field corn, ruminants and poultry have previously been submitted. The nature of imidacloprid residues in plants and animals is adequately understood. The residue of concern is imidacloprid and its metabolites containing the 6-chloropyridinyl moiety, all expressed as parent, as specified in 40 CFR 180.472.

B. Analytical Enforcement Methodology

Adequate enforcement methods are available for determination of the regulated imidacloprid residue in plant (Bayer GC/MS Method 00200 and Bayer HPLC-UV Confirmatory Method 00357) and animal (Bayer GC/MS Method 00191) commodities. These methods have successfully completed EPA Tolerance Method Validation, and are awaiting publication in the Pesticide Analytical Manual II (PAM II). In the interim, these methods are available from: Calvin Furlow, PRRIB, IRSD (7502C), Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, Ariel Rios Bldg., 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20460; telephone number: (703) 305-5229; e-mail address: furlow.calvin@epa.gov.

Bayer Corporation has previously submitted adequate multiresidue method (MRM) recovery data for imidacloprid and its olefin, hydroxy, guanidine, and 6-chloronicotininc acid metabolites through FDA's Protocols A through E. Imidacloprid and its metabolites were not recoverable by these methods. These data have been forwarded to FDA and we expect them to be published in PAM, Vol I, Appendix I in a future update. Additional MRM recovery data are not required.

C. Magnitude of Residues

An initial review of the crop field trial data for seed-treatment of field corn support the proposed tolerances for combined residues of imidacloprid and its metabolites containing the 6-chloropyridinyl moiety. Time-limited tolerances for field corn are being established until a full review of the residue data is completed and permanent tolerances are established.

D. International Residue Limits

There are no established CODEX, Canadian or Mexican residue limits for

imidacloprid in/on field corn fodder, forage, and grain. Thus, harmonization of the proposed tolerances with CODEX, Canada and Mexico is not an issue for these petitions.

E. Rotational Crop Restrictions

Data concerning the metabolism of imidacloprid in confined rotational crops was previously submitted. The nature of the residue in rotational crops is adequately understood and is nearly identical to that identified in the primary crops. The residue of concern in rotational crops is imidacloprid and its metabolites containing the 6-chloropyridinyl moiety, all expressed as parent. Treated areas may be replanted with any crop specified on an imidacloprid label, or any crop for which a tolerance exists for imidacloprid, as soon as practical following the last application, with the exception of cereals, legumes, and safflower, which have a 30-day plant-back restriction. A 12-month plant-back restriction must be observed for crops not listed on an imidacloprid label and for crops for which no tolerances for imidacloprid have been established.

V. Conclusion

Therefore, tolerances are established for combined residues of imidacloprid and its metabolites containing the 6-chloropyridinyl moiety, in or on corn, field fodder at 0.2 ppm, corn, field forage at 0.1 ppm, and corn, field grain at 0.05 ppm.

VI. Objections and Hearing Requests

Under section 408(g) of the FFDCA, as amended by the FQPA, any person may file an objection to any aspect of this regulation and may also request a hearing on those objections. The EPA procedural regulations which govern the submission of objections and requests for hearings appear in 40 CFR part 178. Although the procedures in those regulations require some modification to reflect the amendments made to the FFDCA by the FQPA of 1996, EPA will continue to use those procedures, with appropriate adjustments, until the necessary modifications can be made. The new section 408(g) provides essentially the same process for persons to "object" to a regulation for an exemption from the requirement of a tolerance issued by EPA under new section 408(d), as was provided in the old FFDCA sections 408 and 409. However, the period for filing objections is now 60 days, rather than 30 days.

A. What Do I Need To Do To File an Objection or Request a Hearing?

You must file your objection or request a hearing on this regulation in accordance with the instructions provided in this unit and in 40 CFR part 178. To ensure proper receipt by EPA, you must identify docket control number OPP-300980 in the subject line on the first page of your submission. All requests must be in writing, and must be mailed or delivered to the Hearing Clerk on or before May 1, 2000.

1. *Filing the request.* Your objection must specify the specific provisions in the regulation that you object to, and the grounds for the objections (40 CFR 178.25). If a hearing is requested, the objections must include a statement of the factual issues(s) on which a hearing is requested, the requestor's contentions on such issues, and a summary of any evidence relied upon by the objector (40 CFR 178.27). Information submitted in connection with an objection or hearing request may be claimed confidential by marking any part or all of that information as CBI. Information so marked will not be disclosed except in accordance with procedures set forth in 40 CFR part 2. A copy of the information that does not contain CBI must be submitted for inclusion in the public record. Information not marked confidential may be disclosed publicly by EPA without prior notice.

Mail your written request to: Office of the Hearing Clerk (1900), Environmental Protection Agency, Ariel Rios Bldg., 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20460. You may also deliver your request to the Office of the Hearing Clerk in Rm. C400, Waterside Mall, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460. The Office of the Hearing Clerk is open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. The telephone number for the Office of the Hearing Clerk is (202) 260-4865.

2. *Tolerance fee payment.* If you file an objection or request a hearing, you must also pay the fee prescribed by 40 CFR 180.33(i) or request a waiver of that fee pursuant to 40 CFR 180.33(m). You must mail the fee to: EPA Headquarters Accounting Operations Branch, Office of Pesticide Programs, P.O. Box 360277M, Pittsburgh, PA 15251. Please identify the fee submission by labeling it "Tolerance Petition Fees."

EPA is authorized to waive any fee requirement "when in the judgement of the Administrator such a waiver or refund is equitable and not contrary to the purpose of this subsection." For additional information regarding the waiver of these fees, you may contact

James Tompkins by phone at (703) 305-5697, by e-mail at tompkins.jim@epa.gov, or by mailing a request for information to Mr. Tompkins at Registration Division (7505C), Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, Ariel Rios Bldg., 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20460.

If you would like to request a waiver of the tolerance objection fees, you must mail your request for such a waiver to: James Hollins, Information Resources and Services Division (7502C), Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, Ariel Rios Bldg., 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20460.

3. *Copies for the Docket.* In addition to filing an objection or hearing request with the Hearing Clerk as described in Unit VI.A., you should also send a copy of your request to the PIRIB for its inclusion in the official record that is described in Unit I.B.2. Mail your copies, identified by docket control number OPP-300980, to: Public Information and Records Integrity Branch, Information Resources and Services Division (7502C), Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, Ariel Rios Bldg., 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20460. In person or by courier, bring a copy to the location of the PIRIB described in Unit I.B.2. You may also send an electronic copy of your request via e-mail to: opp-docket@epa.gov. Please use an ASCII file format and avoid the use of special characters and any form of encryption. Copies of electronic objections and hearing requests will also be accepted on disks in WordPerfect 6.1/8.0 file format or ASCII file format. Do not include any CBI in your electronic copy. You may also submit an electronic copy of your request at many Federal Depository Libraries.

B. When Will the Agency Grant a Request for a Hearing?

A request for a hearing will be granted if the Administrator determines that the material submitted shows the following: There is a genuine and substantial issue of fact; there is a reasonable possibility that available evidence identified by the requestor would, if established resolve one or more of such issues in favor of the requestor, taking into account uncontested claims or facts to the contrary; and resolution of the factual issues(s) in the manner sought by the requestor would be adequate to justify the action requested (40 CFR 178.32).

VII. Regulatory Assessment Requirements

This final rule establishes a tolerance under FFDCA section 408(d) in response to a petition submitted to the Agency. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has exempted these types of actions from review under Executive Order 12866, entitled *Regulatory Planning and Review* (58 FR 51735, October 4, 1993). This final rule does not contain any information collections subject to OMB approval under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA), 44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*, or impose any enforceable duty or contain any unfunded mandate as described under Title II of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (UMRA) (Public Law 104-4). Nor does it require any prior consultation as specified by Executive Order 13084, entitled *Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments* (63 FR 27655, May 19, 1998); special considerations as required by Executive Order 12898, entitled *Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations* (59 FR 7629, February 16, 1994); or require OMB review or any Agency action under Executive Order 13045, entitled *Protection of Children from Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks* (62 FR 19885, April 23, 1997). This action does not involve any technical standards that would require Agency consideration of voluntary consensus standards pursuant to section 12(d) of the National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act of 1995 (NTTAA), Public Law 104-113, section 12(d) (15 U.S.C. 272 note). Since tolerances and exemptions that are established on the basis of a petition under FFDCA section 408(d), such as the tolerance in this final rule, do not require the issuance of a proposed rule, the requirements of the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA) (5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*) do not apply. In addition, the Agency has determined that this action will not have a substantial direct effect on States, on the relationship between the national government and the States, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities among the various levels of government, as specified in Executive Order 13132, entitled *Federalism* (64 FR 43255, August 10, 1999). Executive Order 13132 requires EPA to develop an accountable process to ensure "meaningful and timely input by State and local officials in the development of regulatory policies that have federalism implications." "Policies that have federalism implications" is defined in the Executive Order to

include regulations that have “substantial direct effects on the States, on the relationship between the national government and the States, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities among the various levels of government.” This final rule directly regulates growers, food processors, food handlers and food retailers, not States. This action does not alter the relationships or distribution of power and responsibilities established by Congress in the preemption provisions of FFDCA section 408(n)(4).

VIII. Submission to Congress and the Comptroller General

The Congressional Review Act, 5 U.S.C. 801 *et seq.*, as added by the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996, generally provides that before a rule may take effect, the

agency promulgating the rule must submit a rule report, which includes a copy of the rule, to each House of the Congress and to the Comptroller General of the United States. EPA will submit a report containing this rule and other required information to the United States Senate, the United States House of Representatives, and the Comptroller General of the United States prior to publication of this final rule in the **Federal Register**. This final rule is not a “major rule” as defined by 5 U.S.C. 804(2).

List of Subjects in 40 CFR Part 180

Environmental protection, Administrative practice and procedure, Agricultural commodities, Pesticides and pests, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

Dated: February 15, 2000.

James Jones,
Director, Registration Division, Office of Pesticide Programs.

Therefore, 40 CFR chapter I is amended as follows:

PART 180—[AMENDED]

1. The authority citation for part 180 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 21 U.S.C. 321(q), (346a) and 371.

2. Section 180.472 is amended by alphabetically adding three entries to the table in paragraph (a) to read as follows:

§ 180.472 Imidacloprid; tolerances for residues.

(a) * * *

Commodity	Parts per million	Expiration/Revocation date
Corn, field fodder	0.20	12/31/00
Corn, field forage	0.10	12/31/00
Corn, field grain	0.05	12/31/00

* * * * *
[FR Doc. 00-5047 Filed 3-1-00; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 6560-50-F

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

48 CFR Chapter 5

RIN 3090-AE90

General Services Administration Acquisition Regulation

AGENCY: Office of Acquisition Policy, GSA.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The General Services Administration (GSA) is adopting as final, with changes, the interim rule published in the **Federal Register** at 64 FR 37200, July 9, 1999, the reissuance of the General Services Administration Acquisition Regulation (GSAR). GSA rewrote the GSAR in plain language, included only regulatory material, and removed internal agency guidance. GSA also updated the GSAR to reflect recent changes to the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) The interim rule was effective September 1, 1999.

GSA is also issuing final regulations providing guidance on selection criteria for architect-engineer contracts.

DATES: Effective March 10, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Gloria Sochon, GSA Acquisition Policy Division, (202) 208-6726.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

A. Background

- The GSAR, as reissued—
- Uses plain language to improve clarity and understanding.
- Reduces the amount of regulatory material.
- Eliminates internal operating procedures that do not have significant effect beyond GSA, or a significant cost or administrative impact on contractors or offerors.
- Eliminates guidance which merely implements or supplements the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) without a significant cost or administrative impact on contracts or offerors, or an effect beyond GSA’s internal operating procedures.
- Updates GSA rules for consistency with recent Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) changes.

GSA published and interim rule in the **Federal Register** on July 9, 1999 (64 FR 37200). One respondent submitted

comments in response to the interim rule. GSA considered those comments in developing the final rule. The changes in this rule:

- Update references to the GSA Order on use of the credit card to reflect the new order issued by GSA on September 1, 1999, and updating related procedures. The changes include updating the clause at section 552.232-77 to reflect Federal Supply Service (FSS) requirements that FSS contractors accept payment by the Governmentwide commercial purchase card for orders that do not exceed the micropurchase threshold.
- Correct an error at section 515.408 in a reference to the clause to section 552.215-72.
- Update the warranty clause applicable to multiple award schedule contracts to apply to both domestic and overseas locations and deletes the clause applicable to international multiple award schedules to reflect updated Federal Supply Schedule programs.
- Correct a typographical error at section 552.209-70.
- Revise section 552.216-70 to eliminate a duplicated paragraph.
- Revise section 552.232-76 to clarify that electronic funds transfer