

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR**Employment and Training Administration****20 CFR Part 655**

RIN 1205-AB24

Labor Certification and Petition Process for Temporary Agricultural Employment of Nonimmigrant Workers in the United States (H-2A Workers); Modification of Fee Structure; Informal Briefing**AGENCY:** Employment and Training Administration, Labor.**ACTION:** Proposed rule; notice of informal briefing; reopening and extension of deadline for notices of intention to appear.

SUMMARY: The Division of Foreign Labor Certification, Employment and Training Administration (ETA), Department of Labor (Department), is reopening and extending the deadline for notices of intention to appear at two informal briefings to allow agricultural workers and employers and other interested parties to communicate directly with the Department regarding proposed rule changes which would require employers to submit fees for temporary foreign agricultural labor certification and the associated H-2A petition with a consolidated application form at the time of filing. See proposed rule to amend 20 CFR part 655, published elsewhere in today's issue of the **Federal Register**. The proposed rule also would modify the fee structure for H-2A labor certification applications. These briefings are being held to allow the Department to solicit individual responses and experiences from interested persons and other entities. This notice extends the deadline for filing by the public of their intention to appear.

DATES: The briefing dates are:

Thursday, November 8, 2001, 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Washington, DC.

Friday, November 16, 2001, 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monterey, CA.

Notices of intention to appear at the briefing must be postmarked no later than October 31, 2001.

ADDRESSES: The briefing locations are: U.S. Department of Labor, Francis Perkins Building, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW., Plaza Level Auditorium, Washington, DC 20010. Hilton Monterey, 1000 Oguajito Road, Monterey, CA 93940.

Send notices of intention to appear to: Charlene Giles, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW,

Room C-4318, Washington, DC 20210. Notices also may be faxed to Charlene Giles at 202-693-2760 (this is not a toll-free number), or submitted by e-mail at dflc@uis.doleta.gov.**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Charlene Giles; telephone 202-693-2950. (This is not a toll-free number).**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The informal public briefings will be chaired by a senior official of the Employment and Training Administration. Persons appearing at the briefings will be allowed to present their views and pose questions to Department staff and other parties presenting their views.

Signed at Washington, DC, this 19th day of October, 2001.

Emily Stover DeRocco,*Assistant Secretary for Employment and Training.*

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BILLING CODE 4510-30-P**DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE****Drug Enforcement Administration****21 CFR Part 1310**

[DEA-203P]

RIN 1117-AA52

Establishment of a Threshold for Gamma-Butyrolactone**AGENCY:** Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Justice.**ACTION:** Notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM).

SUMMARY: DEA is proposing a zero kilogram threshold for domestic, export, and import transactions of gamma-butyrolactone (GBL), a List I chemical and the precursor to gamma-hydroxybutyric acid (GHB), a Schedule I controlled substance. DEA is concerned that GBL packaged in individual containers is convenient to traffickers and at risk of diversion. Therefore, DEA is proposing to regulate containers that can be easily transported, stored, and generally dealt with in clandestine settings.

However, most GBL produced is used in captive markets or transported in large quantities in single containers. This material is less likely to be diverted. Therefore, this NPRM proposes to exempt from the definition of a "regulated transaction" all transactions of 16,000 kilograms (net weight) or more in a single container.

Pub. L. 106-172, the "Hillory J. Farias and Samantha Reid Date-Rape Prohibition Act of 1999," made GBL a

List I chemical. Accordingly, DEA published a Final Rule, on April 24, 2000, (65 FR 21645) conforming its regulations to this Act and making GBL a List I chemical. Because that Final Rule did not establish a threshold, all transactions in GBL are regulated transactions as described by 21 CFR 1300.02(b)(28). The removal from the definition of a "regulated transaction" that DEA proposes in this NPRM for large (i.e., over 16,000 kilograms) transactions of GBL will help minimize the potential impact of this rule on legitimate industry while preventing diversion.

DATES: Written comments must be received on or before December 24, 2001.**ADDRESSES:** Comments should be submitted to the Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Diversion Control, Drug Enforcement Administration, Washington, DC 20537, Attention: DEA Federal Register Representative/CCR.**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Frank L. Sapienza, Chief, Drug and Chemical Evaluation Section, Office of Division Control, Drug Enforcement Administration, Washington, DC 20537.**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****What Is GBL and Why Is It Being Regulated Under the Controlled Substances Act (CSA)?**

GBL is gamma-butyrolactone, the precursor used in the clandestine production of the Schedule I controlled substance gamma-hydroxybutyric acid (GHB). Since 1990, DEA has documented over 15,600 overdoses and law enforcement encounters in 46 states with GHB. DEA has documented 71 GHB-related deaths. The GHB obtained in the vast majority of these encounters is by conversion of GBL.

GBL was placed in the CSA as a List I chemical effective February 18, 2000, by enactment of Pub. L. 106-172, the "Hillory J. Farias and Samantha Reid Date-Rape Prohibition Act of 1999" (65 FR 21645, April 24, 2000). That law, however, did not establish a threshold. As a result of the law not establishing a threshold, all transactions in GBL are regulated transactions as described in 21 CFR 1300.02(b)(28).

DEA has identified the source for illicit GHB as being clandestinely synthesized from GBL. Law enforcement agencies have encountered GHB on at least 1,700 occasions, including more than 180 clandestine laboratories and more than 750 seized and analyzed laboratory exhibits. GHB has only recently been scheduled in the CSA as