

effectiveness of the pesticide poster in reinforcing previous training and the burdens the various retraining options might place on agricultural employers or other entities that may perform worker or handler training. Concerns with each of the options are requested as well.

Commenters supporting retaining the current 5-year retraining interval, shortening the retraining interval to 3 years, or providing annual retraining, should state explicitly the reasons for, and provide information on the need, costs and feasibility of, the recommended option.

VII. Solicitation of Comments

A record has been established for this rulemaking under docket number "OPP-250097" (including comments and data 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 confidential business information (CBI), is available for inspection from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. The public record is located in Room 1132 of the Public Response and Program Resources Branch, Field Operations Division (7506C), Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, CM #2, 1921 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA. Written comments should be mailed to: Public Response and Program Resources Branch, Field Operations Division (7506C) Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460.

EPA is interested in receiving comments and information on all of the proposed options. Comments are requested on: (1) general worker and handler hiring and employment practices, such as the rate of turnover and employment among agricultural workers and handlers, (2) the practicality and effectiveness of the grace period options, including how the frequency of hiring would affect the frequency of training sessions, situations where training before entry would not be possible, mechanisms that are available or will be available to provide training on short notice and the estimated costs of reducing or eliminating the grace period or providing a weekly training regimen, (3) the practicality and effectiveness of eliminating the interim grace period for training and (4) the retraining interval, including the impacts of a retraining interval of less than 5 years, worker and handler retention of safety training information over time, whether

agricultural workers and handlers have a greater need for retraining than workers in other occupations, the effectiveness of the pesticide poster in reinforcing previous training and the burdens the various retraining options might place on agricultural employers or other entities that may perform worker or handler training. Comments should be distinguished as applying to workers, handlers, or both, as applicable.

As part of an interagency "streamlining" initiative, EPA is experimenting with submission of public comments on selected **Federal Register** actions electronically through the Internet in addition to accepting comments in traditional written form. This proposed exception is one of the actions selected by EPA for this experiment. From the experiment, EPA will learn how electronic commenting works, and any problems that arise can be addressed before EPA adopts electronic commenting more broadly in its rulemaking activities. Electronic commenting through posting to the EPA Bulletin Board or through the Internet using the ListServe function raise some novel issues that are discussed below in this Unit.

To submit electronic comments, persons can either "subscribe" to the Internet ListServe application or "post" comments to the EPA Bulletin Board. To "Subscribe" to the Internet ListServe application for this proposed exception, send an e-mail message to: listserver@unixmail.rtpnc.epa.gov that says "Subscribe RIN-2070-AC69 <first name> <last name>." Once you are subscribed to the ListServe, comments should be sent to: RIN-2070-AC69@unixmail.rtpnc.epa.gov. All comments and data in electronic form should be identified by the docket number OPP-250097 since all five documents in this separate part provide the same electronic address.

For online viewing of submissions and posting of comments, the public access EPA Bulletin Board is also available by dialing 202-488-3671, enter selection "DMAIL," user name "BB-USER" or 919-541-4642, enter selection "MAIL," user name "BB-USER." When dialing the EPA Bulletin Board type <Return> at the opening message. When the "Notes" prompt appears, type "open RIN-2070-AC69" to access the posted messages for this document. To get a listing of all files, type "dir/all" at the prompt line. Electronic comments can also be sent directly to EPA at:

Docket-OPPTS@epamail.epa.gov.

Electronic comments must be submitted as an ASCII file avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption. To obtain further information on the electronic comment process, or on submitting comments on this proposed exception electronically through the EPA Bulletin Board or the Internet ListServe, please contact John A. Richards (Telephone: 202-260-2253; FAX: 202-260-3884; Internet: richards.john@epamail.epa.gov).

Persons who comment on this proposed rule, and those who view comments electronically, should be aware that this experimental electronic commenting is administered on a completely public system. Therefore, any personal information included in comments and the electronic mail addresses of those who make comments electronically are automatically available to anyone else who views the comments. Similarly, since all electronic comments are available to all users, commenters should not submit electronically any information which they believe to be CBI. Such information should be submitted only directly to EPA in writing as described earlier in this Unit.

Commenters and others outside EPA may choose to comment on the comments submitted by others using the RIN-2070-AC69 ListServe or the EPA Bulletin Board. If they do so, those comments as well will become part of EPA's record for this rulemaking. Persons outside EPA wishing to discuss comments with commenters or otherwise communicate with commenters but not have those discussions or communications sent to EPA and included in the EPA rulemaking record should conduct those discussions and communications outside the RIN-2070-AC69 ListServe or the EPA Bulletin Board.

The official record for this rulemaking, as well as the public version, as described above will be kept in paper form. Accordingly, EPA will transfer all comments received electronically in the RIN-2070-AC69 ListServe or the EPA Bulletin Board, in accordance with the instructions for electronic submission, into printed, paper form as they are received and will place the paper copies in the official rulemaking record which will also include all comments submitted directly in writing. All the electronic comments will be available to everyone who obtains access to the RIN-2070-AC69 ListServe or the EPA Bulletin Board; however, the official rulemaking record is the paper record maintained at the address in "ADDRESSES" at the beginning of this document. (Comments