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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Food and Drug Administration

21 CFR Part 178

[Docket No. 98F-1122]

Indirect Food Additives: Adjuvants, Production Aids, and Sanitizers

AGENCY: Food and Drug Administration, HHS.

ACTION: Final Rule.

SUMMARY: The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is amending the food additive regulations to provide for the safe use of dimethylolpropionic acid as a pigment dispersant for pigments used as components of food-contact articles. This action is in response to a petition filed by Geo Specialty Chemicals.

DATES: This regulation is effective (*insert date of publication in the Federal Register*). Submit written objections and requests for a hearing (*insert date 30 days after date of publication in the Federal Register*).

ADDRESSES: Submit written objections to the Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305), Food and Drug Administration, 5630 Fishers Lane, rm. 1061, Rockville, MD 20852.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Vir D. Anand, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (HFS-215), Food and Drug Administration, 200 C St. SW., Washington, DC 20204, 202-418-3081.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In a notice published in the **Federal Register** of December, 14, 1998 (63 FR 68777), FDA announced that a food additive petition (FAP 9B4637) had been filed by Geo Specialty Chemicals, c/o Keller and Heckman LLP, 1001 G St. NW., suite 500 West, Washington, DC 20001. The petition proposed to amend the food additive regulations in § 178.3725

Pigment dispersants (21 CFR 178.3725) to provide for the safe use of dimethylolpropionic acid as a dispersant for pigments used as components of food-contact articles.

FDA has evaluated data in the petition and other relevant material. Based on this information, the agency concludes that: (1) The proposed use of the additive is safe, (2) the additive will achieve its intended technical effect, and therefore, (3) the regulations in § 178.3725 should be amended as set forth below.

In accordance with § 171.1(h) (21 CFR 171.1(h)), the petition and the documents that FDA considered and relied upon in reaching its decision to approve the petition are available for inspection at the Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition by appointment with the information contact person listed above. As provided in § 171.1(h), the agency will delete from the documents any materials that are not available for public disclosure before making the documents available for inspection.

The agency has previously considered the environmental effects of this rule as announced in the notice of filing for FAP 9B4637 (63 FR 68778). No new information or comments have been received that would affect the agency's previous determination that there is no significant impact on the human environment and that an environmental impact statement is not required.

This final rule contains no collection of information. Therefore, clearance by the Office of Management and Budget under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 is not required.

Any person who will be adversely affected by this regulation may at any time on or before (*insert date 30 days after date of publication in the **Federal Register***), file with the Dockets Management Branch (address above) written objections thereto. Each objection shall be separately numbered, and each numbered objection shall specify with particularity the provisions of the regulation to which objection is made and the grounds for the objection. Each numbered objection on which a hearing is requested shall specifically so state. Failure to request a hearing for any particular objection shall constitute a waiver of the right to a hearing on that objection. Each

numbered objection for which a hearing is requested shall include a detailed description and analysis of the specific factual information intended to be presented in support of the objection in the event that a hearing is held. Failure to include such a description and analysis for any particular objection shall constitute a waiver of the right to a hearing on the objection. Three copies of all documents shall be submitted and shall be identified with the docket number found in brackets in the heading of this document. Any objections received in response to the regulation may be seen in the Dockets Management Branch between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

List of Subjects in 21 CFR Part 178

Food additives, Food packaging.

Therefore, under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act and under authority delegated to the Commissioner of Food and Drugs and redelegated to the Director, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, 21 CFR part 178 is amended as follows:

PART 178—INDIRECT FOOD ADDITIVES: ADJUVANTS, PRODUCTION AIDS, AND SANITIZERS

1. The authority citation for 21 CFR part 178 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 21 U.S.C. 321, 342, 348, 379e.

2. Section 178.3725 is amended in the table by alphabetically adding an entry under the headings “Substances” and “Limitations” to read as follows:

§ 178.3725 Pigment dispersants.

* * * * *

Substances	Limitations
Dimethylpropionic acid (CAS Reg. No. 4767-03-7)	For use only at levels not to exceed 0.45 percent by weight of the pigment. The pigmented articles may contact all foods under conditions of use A through H as described in Table 2 of § 176.170(c) of this chapter.

Dated: 8/26/99

August 26, 1999

L. Robert Lake

L. Robert Lake
 Director
 Office of Policy, Planning
 and Strategic Initiatives
 Center for Food Safety and
 Applied Nutrition
 [FR Doc. 99-???? Filed ??-??-99; 8:45 am]

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Mich W. Bell