



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF  
PREVENTION, PESTICIDES AND  
TOXIC SUBSTANCES

DATE: May 24, 2005

**ACTION MEMORANDUM**

SUBJECT: Inert Reassessment – Dimethyl ether (CAS# 115-10-6)

FROM: Dan Rosenblatt, Chief  
Minor Use, Inerts, and Emergency Response Branch

TO: Lois A. Rossi, Director  
Registration Division

**I. FQPA REASSESSMENT ACTION**

**Action:** Reassessment of one inert exemption(s) from the requirement of a tolerance. The exemption is being maintained as-is.

**Chemical:** Dimethyl Ether

**CFR:** 40 CFR part 180.930

**CAS #:** 115-10-6

**Use Summary:**

The existing dimethyl ether exemption from the requirement of a tolerance under 40 CFR 180.930 is for use on animals only. Dimethyl ether is used as an inert ingredient in a variety of livestock insect sprays and foggers/space sprays for animal living quarters. The data and information recently used to establish a new tolerance exemption for dimethyl ether is being relied upon here for the reassessment of the existing tolerance exemption on animals. No risk issues of concern were identified in the Federal Register Notice of May 18, 2005 (70 FR 28436) (FRL-7711-4), in which the Agency established a tolerance exemption under 40 CFR 180.910 (growing crops and after-harvest) for dimethyl ether.

Human dietary exposure as a result of the consumption of livestock can be evaluated by estimating the animal's exposure to treated feed (hay, grain, etc.) and through direct application (sprays) to the animal itself. The Notice concludes that "Significant levels of residues from such a volatile gas are unlikely to be present in food or feed items." Considering dimethyl ether's vapor pressure (4,450 mm Hg at 25°C), animals are not expected to encounter residues in feed (hay, grain, etc.). For this same reason it is unlikely that dimethyl ether will be absorbed into the skin in any

appreciable amount when sprayed directly on animals. Animals can also encounter the chemical when it is applied via foggers or space sprays. The Notice does estimate exposure from residential foggers and concludes that it would be very small, especially considering ventilation after use. The residential fogger exposure scenario encompasses the use of foggers and space sprays in animal living quarters, therefore, animal exposure is expected to be small. In addition, dimethyl ether is not expected to be present in drinking water as a result of the application to animals. Therefore, no dietary (including drinking water) risks of concern are expected from the use of dimethyl ether on animals.

Taking into consideration the available information on dimethyl ether, it is determined that there is a reasonable certainty that no harm to any population subgroup will result from aggregate exposure to this chemical when considering dietary exposure and all other non-occupational sources of pesticide exposure for which there is reliable information. Therefore, the one exemption from the requirement of a tolerance established for residues of dimethyl ether in animals can be considered reassessed as safe under section 408(q) of the FFDCA.

## II. MANAGEMENT CONCURRENCE

I concur with the reassessment of the one exemption from the requirement of a tolerance for the inert ingredient dimethyl ether (CAS# 115-10-6), as described above. I consider the one exemption established in 40 CFR part 180.930 to be reassessed for purposes of FFDCA's section 408(q) as of the date of my signature, below. A Federal Register Notice regarding this tolerance exemption reassessment decision will be published in the near future.

  
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Lois A. Rossi, Director  
Registration Division

Date: 6/1/05 June 1, 2005

CC: Debbie Edwards, SRRD  
Joe Nevola, SRRD