

been aware since January 1, 1977. In response to requests for clarification, the statement defines what constitutes such awareness. In this manner, EPA intends to limit the need for searches of historical records and files.

(6) This policy statement now provides that any information published in scientific literature, in any language, is exempt if it is referred to in abstracts published by specified abstracting services.

(7) This policy statement describes in a new Part X how to submit claims of confidentiality.

Accordingly, the Administrator's interpretation of and policy towards section 8(e) is set forth below.

Dated: February 24, 1978.

DOUGLAS COSTLE
Administrator.

I. DEFINITIONS

The definitions set forth in TSCA section 3 apply to these requirements. In addition, the following definitions are provided for purposes of this policy statement:

The term "manufacture or process for commercial purposes" means to manufacture or process: (1) For distribution in commerce, including for test marketing purposes, (2) for use as a catalyst or an intermediate, (3) for the exclusive use by the manufacturer or processor, or (4) for product research and development.

The term "person" includes any natural person, corporation, firm, company, joint-venture, partnership, sole proprietorship, association, or any other business entity, any State or political subdivision thereof, any municipality, any interstate body and any department, agency, or instrumentality of the Federal Government.

The term "substantial-risk information" means information which reasonably supports the conclusion that a chemical substance or mixture presents a substantial risk of injury to health or the environment.

II. PERSONS SUBJECT TO THE REQUIREMENT

Persons subject to section 8(e) requirements include both natural persons and business entities engaged in manufacturing, processing, or distributing in commerce a chemical substance or mixture. In the case of business entities, the president, chief executive officer, and any other officers responsible and having authority for the organization's execution of its section 8(e) obligations must ensure that the organization reports substantial-risk information to EPA. The business organization is considered to have obtained any information which any officer or employee capable of appreciating the significance of that information has obtained. It is therefore in-

cumbent upon business organizations to establish procedures for expeditiously processing pertinent information in order to comply with the schedule set forth in Part IV.

Those officers and employees of business organizations who are capable of appreciating the significance of pertinent information are also subject to these reporting requirements. An employing organization may relieve its individual officers and employees of any responsibility for reporting substantial-risk information directly to EPA by establishing, internally publicizing, and affirmatively implementing procedures for employee submission and corporate processing of pertinent information. These procedures, at a minimum, must: (1) Specify the information that officers and employees must submit; (2) indicate how such submissions are to be prepared and the company official to whom they are to be submitted; (3) note the Federal penalties for failing to report; and (4) provide a mechanism for promptly advising officers and employees in writing of the company's disposition of the report, including whether or not the report was submitted to EPA (and if not informing employees of their right to report to EPA, as protected by TSCA section 23). An employee of any company that has established and publicized such procedures, who has internally submitted pertinent information in accordance with them, shall have discharged his section 8(e) obligation. Establishment of such procedures notwithstanding, all officials responsible and having authority for the organization's execution of its section 8(e) obligations retain personal liability for ensuring that the appropriate substantial-risk information is reported to EPA.

Business organizations that do not establish such procedures cannot relieve their individual officers and employees of the responsibility for ensuring that substantial-risk information they obtain is reported to EPA. While officers and employees of such organizations may also elect to submit substantial-risk information to their superiors for corporate processing and reporting, rather than to EPA directly, they have not discharged their individual section 8(e) obligation until EPA has received the information.

NOTE.—Irrespective of a business organization's decision to establish and publicize the procedures described above, it is responsible for becoming cognizant of any substantial-risk information obtained by its officers and employees, and for ensuring that such information is reported to EPA within 15 working days.

III. WHEN A PERSON WILL BE REGARDED AS HAVING OBTAINED INFORMATION

A person obtains substantial-risk information at the time he first comes

into possession of or knows of such information.

NOTE.—This includes information of which a prudent person similarly situated could reasonably be expected to possess or have knowledge.

An establishment obtains information at the time any officer or employee capable of appreciating the significance of such information obtains it.

IV. REQUIREMENT THAT A PERSON "IMMEDIATELY INFORM" THE ADMINISTRATOR

With the exception of information on emergency incidents of environmental contamination (see Part V(c)) a person has "immediately informed" the Administrator if information is received by EPA not later than the 15th working day after the date the person obtained such information. Supplementary information generated after a section 8(e) notification should, if appropriate, be immediately reported. For emergency incidents of environmental contamination, a person shall report the incident to the Administrator by telephone as soon as he has knowledge of the incident (see Part IX for appropriate telephone contacts). The report should contain as much of the information required by Part IX as possible. A written report in accordance with Part IX (a) through (f) is to be submitted within 15 days.

Information currently in the possession of a person who is subject to reporting must be reported within 60 days of publication of this policy statement.

V. WHAT CONSTITUTES SUBSTANTIAL RISKS

A "substantial risk of injury to health or the environment" is a risk of considerable concern because of (a) the seriousness of the effect (see Subparts (a), (b), and (c) below for an illustrative list of effects of concern), and (b) the fact or probability of its occurrence. (Economic or social benefits of use, or costs of restricting use, are not to be considered in determining whether a risk is "substantial".) These two criteria are differentially weighted for different types of effects. The human health effects listed in Subpart (a) below, for example, are so serious that relatively little weight is given to exposure; the mere fact the implicated chemical is in commerce constitutes sufficient evidence of exposure. In contrast, the remaining effects listed in Subparts (b) and (c) below must involve, or be accompanied by the potential for, significant levels of exposure (because of general production levels, persistence, typical uses, common means of disposal, or other pertinent factors).

Note that: (1) The effects outlined below should not be reported if the re-