OFFICE OF CHEMICAL SAFETY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
4700 River Road, Unit 149
Riverdale, MD 20737

Effective Date: September 25, 2024
Expiration Date: September 25, 2027
Interim Reports Due: September 25, 2025
September 25, 2026
Final Report Due: March 25, 2028
File symbol: 24DA04

Attn: Samantha Bates and Elias Monastersky

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) hereby grants a quarantine exemption under the provisions of Section 18 of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, as amended, to the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, (USDA/APHIS), for use of sodium hypochlorite to control prions. This exemption permits sodium hypochlorite treatments on clean, hard, non-porous areas potentially exposed to prions. This exemption is subject to the conditions and restrictions specified in the revised use directions dated September 18, 2024, as well as the following:

1. The USDA/APHIS is responsible for ensuring that all provisions of this quarantine exemption are met. USDA/APHIS is also responsible for providing information in accordance with 40 CFR §166.32(b). Accordingly, a final report summarizing the results of this program must be submitted to EPA Headquarters and the appropriate EPA Regional Office(s) within 6 months following the expiration of this quarantine exemption; also, interim reports must be submitted annually by the dates indicated above. Additionally, in accordance with 40 CFR §166.32(a), these offices shall be immediately informed of any adverse effects resulting from the use of this chemical in connection with this exemption. Refer to file symbol 24DA04 in any future correspondence regarding this exemption.

2. Commercially available sodium hypochlorite (numerous manufacturers) may be used. Hard, non-porous, nonfood/feed-contact surfaces may be treated using a prepared 2.0% sodium hypochlorite solution (20,000 ppm available chlorine). Follow all applicable use directions, restrictions, and precautions on the product label and the Section 18 label/use directions prepared by USDA/APHIS, including the use of appropriate personal protective equipment.

3. Surfaces to be treated must be pre-cleaned prior to treatment to remove gross contamination because the presence of excess organic material will reduce the strength of sodium hypochlorite. Organic material must be scraped off surfaces that are to be chemically treated. When practical, surfaces should first be cleaned with a nonionic detergent, or if a nonionic detergent is not available, a commercial detergent should be used. Surfaces must be thoroughly cleaned by vigorous wiping and/or scrubbing until all visible soil is removed, and then rinsed with water and allowed to dry before chemical application.

4. Do not reuse soiled cleaning materials. Materials and wastes from the cleaning process are to be disposed of in accordance with local regulations for infectious materials disposal.

5. Apply a 2% sodium hypochlorite solution (20,000 ppm available chlorine). Reapply as needed to keep surfaces wet for a contact time of 60 minutes. After treatment thoroughly rinse all surfaces and equipment with water. Allow to dry before re-handling. A fresh solution must be prepared for each use. Do not reuse the solution. Applicator may prepare a stock solution and then prepare a working concentration on the day of use. No treatments to food/feed-contact items are permitted.

6. This Section 18 quarantine exemption expires 3 years from the date of issuance. Annual interim use reports must be submitted by September 25, 2025, and September 25, 2026, and a final use report must be submitted within 6 months following expiration of this exemption.

7. If there are any questions regarding the authorization of this quarantine exemption program, please contact Emergency Response Team member Andrea Conrath at (202) 566-2568 or (conrath.andrea@epa.gov) or the Emergency Response Team Senior Regulatory Specialist, Jennifer Gaines at (202) 566-2685 or (gaines.jennifer@epa.gov).

Ed Messina

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Ed Messina, Esq., Director
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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

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