

§ 790.24 Criteria for determining whether a consensus exists concerning the provisions of a draft consent agreement.

(a) EPA will enter into consent agreements only where there is a consensus among the Agency, one or more manufacturers and/or processors who agree to conduct or sponsor the testing, and all other interested parties who identify themselves in accordance with § 790.22(b)(2). EPA will not enter into a consent agreement in either of the following circumstances:

(1) EPA and affected manufacturers and/or processors cannot reach a consensus on the testing requirements or other provisions to be included in the consent agreement.

(2) A draft consent agreement is considered inadequate by other interested parties who, pursuant to § 790.22(b)(2), have asked to participate in or monitor negotiations; and these parties have submitted timely written objections to the draft consent agreement which provide a specific explanation of the grounds on which the draft agreement is objectionable.

(b) EPA may reject objections described in paragraph (a)(2) of this section only where the Agency concludes the objections are either:

(1) Not made in good faith.

(2) Untimely.

(3) Do not involve the adequacy of the proposed testing program or other features of the agreement that may affect EPA's ability to fulfill the goals and purposes of the Act.

(4) Not accompanied by a specific explanation of the grounds on which the draft agreement is considered objectionable.

(c) The unwillingness of some manufacturers and/or processors of a prospective test chemical to sign the draft consent agreement does not, in itself, establish a lack of consensus if EPA concludes that those manufacturers and/or processors who are prepared to sign the agreement are capable of accomplishing the testing to be required and that the draft agreement will achieve the purposes of the Act in all other respects.

§ 790.26 Initiation and completion of rulemaking proceedings on ITC-designated chemicals.

(a) Where EPA concludes that a consensus does not exist concerning the provisions of a draft consent agreement and that the findings specified by section 4(a) can be made, the Agency will proceed with rulemaking under section 4(a) of TSCA.

(b) When EPA decides to proceed with rulemaking under paragraph (a) of this section, the Agency intends to publish a rulemaking proposal and a final rule or a notice terminating the rulemaking proceeding in accordance with the schedule specified in Appendix A¹ to this part.

(c) Where the testing recommendations of the ITC raise unusually complex and novel issues that require additional Agency review and opportunity for public comment, the Agency may publish an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPR). The schedule that EPA intends to follow for rulemaking proceedings initiated by publication of an ANPR is presented in appendix A¹ to this part.

§ 790.28 Procedures for developing consent agreements and/or test rules for chemicals that have not been designated or recommended with intent to designate by the ITC.

(a) Where EPA believes that testing is needed, it may also develop consent agreements and/or test rules on chemical substances or mixtures that either:

(1) Have been recommended but not "recommended with intent to designate" by the ITC.

(2) Have been selected for testing consideration by EPA on its own initiative.

(b) When EPA wishes to initiate negotiations concerning chemicals described in paragraph (a) of this section, it will publish a FEDERAL REGISTER notice describing its tentative evaluation of testing needs, announcing a date for a public course-setting meeting, and inviting persons interested in participating in or monitoring negotiations to

¹Editorial Note: Appendix A appears at the end of subpart E.