

§ 1021.2

with the National Environmental Policy Act, as amended (NEPA) (15 U.S.C. 4321-4347 as amended by Pub. L. 94-83, August 8, 1975).

§ 1021.2 Policy.

It is the policy of the Commission to weigh and consider the effects upon the human environment of a proposed action and its reasonable alternatives. Actions will be designed to avoid or minimize adverse effects upon the quality of the human environment wherever practicable.

§ 1021.3 Definitions.

(a) The term *CPSC actions* means rulemaking actions; enforcement actions; adjudications; legislative proposals or reports; construction, relocation, or renovation of CPSC facilities; decisions on petitions; and any other agency activity designated by the Executive Director as one necessitating environmental review.

(b) The term *Commission* means the five Commissioners of the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

(c) The term *CPSC* means the entire organization which bears the title Consumer Product Safety Commission.

(d) The term *NEPA regulations* means the Council of Environmental Quality regulations of November 29, 1978 (43 FR 55978) for implementing the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act, as amended (42 U.S.C 4321, et. seq).

(e) The term *environmental review process* refers to all activities associated with decisions to prepare an environmental assessment, a finding of no significant impact, or an environmental impact statement.

(f) The definitions given in part 1508 of the Council's NEPA regulations are applicable to this part 1021 and are not repeated here.

§ 1021.4 Overview of environmental review process for CPSC actions.

The environmental review process normally begins during the staff development of a proposed action and progresses through the following steps:

(a) *Environmental assessment.* (Section 1508.9 of the NEPA regulations). The assessment is initiated along with the staff development of a proposal and the identification of realistic alternatives.

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The assessment shall be available to the Commission before the Commission votes on a proposal and its alternatives. Its purpose is to identify and describe foreseeable effects on the environment, if any, of the action and its alternatives. The assessment culminates in a written report. This report generally contains analyses of the same categories of information as would an EIS, but in a much less detailed fashion. (See §1021.10(a), below.) It contains sufficient information to form a basis for deciding whether effects on the environment are likely to be "significant." (See §1508.27 of the NEPA regulations.)

(b) *Decision as to significance of effects on the environment.* This decision is made by the Executive Director of the CPSC and is based upon the results of the environmental assessment as well as any other pertinent information. If the effects are significant, CPSC publishes in the FEDERAL REGISTER a notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement. (See §1508.22 of the NEPA regulations.) If not, a finding of no significant impact is prepared. (Section 1508.13 of the NEPA regulations.)

(c) *Finding of no significant impact.* This is a written document which gives reasons for concluding that the effects of a proposed action, or its alternatives, on the environment will not be significant. Together with the environmental assessment, it explains the basis for not preparing an EIS. The finding of no significant impact is signed by the Executive Director. The finding of no significant impact and the environmental assessment accompany the proposed action throughout the Commission decision-making process.

(d) *Draft environmental impact statement.* The content of a draft EIS is described in §1021.12, below. For a particular proposal, the breadth of issues to be discussed is determined by using the scoping process described in §1501.7 of the NEPA regulations. The draft EIS pertaining to a proposed rule is before the Commission at the time it considers the proposed action and is available to the public when the notice of proposed rulemaking is published or as