

redemption date, any changed payment routing instructions, the case number(s) to be redeemed, including original issue date(s), and the amount to be redeemed.

(d) *Registered*. To obtain redemption, a bond with the assignment for redemption properly completed and executed must be presented to the Division of Special Investments. Payment routing instructions must also be included with the bond at redemption. Upon partial redemption of a registered bond, the remaining balance will be reissued in book-entry form with the original issue and maturity date.

[Approved by the Office of Management and Budget under control number 1535-0127.]

§ 343.4 Reissue.

(a) *General*. Reissue of a tax and loss bond may be made only under the conditions specified in this paragraph. A request for reissue must be made by an officer of the beneficial owner who is authorized to assign the bond for redemption. The request must be submitted to the Division of Special Investments. A bond will only be reissued in book-entry form and will bear the same issue date and maturity as the original bond.

(b) *Correction of error*. The reissue of a bond may be made to correct an error in the original issue upon an appropriate request, supported by satisfactory proof of the error.

(c) *Change of name*. An owner whose name is changed in any legal manner after the issue of the bond should submit the bond with a request for reissue, substituting the new name for the name inscribed on the bond. The signature on the request for reissue should show the new name, the legal reason which caused the change to be made and the former name. It must be supported by satisfactory proof of the change of name.

(d) *Legal succession*. A bond registered in the name of a company which has been succeeded by another company as the result of a merger, consolidation, incorporation, reincorporation, conversion, reorganization, or which has been lawfully succeeded in any manner whereby the business or activities of the original organization are continued without substantial change, will be paid to or reissued in the name of the successor upon an appropriate request on its behalf, supported by satisfactory evidence of successorship.

(e) *Conversion to book-entry*. Although not required, any owner of tax and loss bonds held in registered form after the effective date of this regulation, may submit those bonds to the Division

of Special Investments, for conversion to book-entry form.

[Approved by the Office of Management and Budget under control number 1535-0127.]

§ 343.5 Taxation

Tax and loss bonds will be exempt from all taxation now or hereafter imposed on the principal by any state or any possession of the United States or of any local taxing authority.

[FR Doc. 97-25450 Filed 9-22-97; 12:17 pm]
BILLING CODE 4810-39-P

POSTAL SERVICE

39 CFR Part 20

Implementation of Global Package Link Service

AGENCY: Postal Service.

ACTION: Interim rule with request for comments.

SUMMARY: Global Package Link Service (GPL) is an international mail service designed for mailers sending merchandise to other countries. To implement an agreement previously entered into with the postal administration of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (Hong Kong), Hong Kong is now being added as a destination country. This action is consistent with the Postal Service's original plan to add destination countries as mailer needs dictate (59 FR 65961; December 22, 1994). GPL Service previously has been made available to Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, France, Germany, Japan, Mexico, Singapore, and the United Kingdom (U.K.). To use GPL Service, a mailer must mail at least 10,000 GPL packages a year and agree to link its information systems with the Postal Service's so that the Postal Service can extract certain information about the contents of the mailer's packages for customs clearance and other purposes. Initially, one level of service to Hong Kong will be offered to mailers. Interim regulations have been developed and are set forth below for comment and suggested revision prior to adoption in final form.

DATES: The interim regulations take effect September 24, 1997. Comments must be received on or before October 24, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be mailed or delivered to Global Package Link Service, U.S. Postal Service, 475 L'Enfant Plaza SW, Room 370 IBU, Washington, DC 20260-6500. Copies of all written comments will be available for public inspection and

photocopying at the above address between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Robert Michelson at the above address. Telephone: (202) 268-5731. Marc Solnick at the above address. Telephone: (202) 268-3916.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Introduction

One of the most important goals of the Postal Service's international mission is developing services that enhance the ability of U.S. mailers to do business in other countries. This responsibility was delineated in 39 U.S.C. 403(b)(2) which makes it the obligation of the Postal Service "to provide types of mail service to meet the needs of different categories of mail and mail users." GPL is designed to more closely meet the needs of mailers who send merchandise packages from the United States to multiple international addressees by simplifying the process mailers use to prepare their packages for mailing and by reducing the costs those mailers incur in mailing merchandise to other countries.

In late 1994, with implementation of International Package Consignment Service, later renamed Global Package Link, to Japan (59 FR 65961; December 22, 1994), the Postal Service announced that, when feasible, it would expand this service to other destination countries based on mailer requests. Consistent with this policy, the Postal Service later expanded GPL by adding Canada and the United Kingdom as destination countries for qualifying mailers (61 FR 13765; March 28, 1996), subsequently expanded GPL further by announcing Brazil, Chile, and Germany as GPL destinations (62 FR 17072; April 9, 1997), added the People's Republic of China as a GPL destination (62 FR 25515; May 9, 1997), added Mexico and Singapore as GPL destinations (62 FR 45160; August 26, 1997), and added France as a GPL destination (62 FR 47558; September 10, 1997). The USPS is hereby further expanding GPL by adding Hong Kong as a GPL destination for qualifying mailers. This action implements an agreement with the postal administration of Hong Kong dated August 29, 1997.

II. GPL to Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

A. Qualifying Criteria

A mailer who wants to use GPL to Hong Kong must enter into a service agreement with the Postal Service providing for the following. First, the mailer must commit to mail at least

10,000 GPL packages per year (volumes to any GPL country may be counted toward this minimum). Second, the mailer must designate the Postal Service as its carrier of choice to Hong Kong. Third, the mailer must agree to link its information systems with the Postal Service's so that the Postal Service and the mailer can exchange data on the mailer's packages, and the Postal Service can extract, on an as-needed basis, certain information about the package by scanning the mailer-provided barcode on each package.

In general, the information that must be made available to the Postal Service includes: the order number; the package identification number; the buyer's name and address; the recipient's name and address; the total weight of the package; the total value of the package contents; the number of items in the package; and, for each item in the package, its SKU number, its value, and its country of origin. In practice, this requirement means that the mailer will have to begin the necessary systems work by the time it begins using GPL, and then will have to assist the Postal Service in completing and maintaining the information systems linkages. The Postal Service will use the extracted information to prepare the necessary customs forms and package labels and to provide user-friendly tracking and tracing.

In addition to these required commitments, which must appear in all GPL service agreements, arrangements between the Postal Service and the mailer that are technical in nature also may appear in the GPL service agreement. For instance, the service agreement may describe the electronic data interface (EDI) or proprietary file format that will be used to transmit data between the mailer and the Postal Service, as well as the frequency and schedule of transmissions. Similarly, the service agreement may describe the formats and frequencies for any exception and performance reports that the Postal Service will provide to the mailer.

B. Processing and Acceptance

If the plant at which the mailer's GPL packages originate is located within 500 miles of a GPL processing facility, the Postal Service will verify and accept the packages at the mailer's plant and transport them to the GPL processing facility according to a schedule agreed to by the Postal Service and the mailer.

If the mailer's plant from which the GPL packages will originate is located more than 500 miles from a GPL

processing facility, the mailer may choose one of two processing options:

Option One

The mailer will be required to present the packages to the Postal Service for verification at the mailer's plant and transport them as a drop shipment to a GPL processing facility according to a schedule agreed to by the Postal Service and the mailer.

Option Two

The mailer will process the packages using Postal Service-provided computer system workstations and sort and prepare the packages as required by the Postal Service. Then, the Postal Service will verify and accept the packages at the mailer's plant according to a schedule agreed to by the Postal Service and the mailer and will transport the packages to a GPL processing facility for dispatch.

C. Customs Forms

Normally, all customs forms will be automatically generated by the Postal Service computer workstations. Packages mailed to Hong Kong through a GPL facility are not required to bear customs forms when they are tendered to the Postal Service. After scanning the mailer-printed barcode on each package and correlating it with the package-specific information transmitted by the mailer, the Postal Service will print the necessary customs forms and then affix them to the mailer's packages as part of the processing operation at the GPL processing facility. If the mailer is more than 500 miles from a designated GPL facility and chooses option two, then the customs/GPL label will be affixed by the mailer using Postal Service-provided workstations.

D. Customs Clearance

The Postal Service has developed the Customs Pre-Advisory System (CPAS) as part of GPL processing. This electronic system collects package-specific data to satisfy customs requirements as packages are processed using the USPS computer workstations located at a GPL facility. The system electronically advises the USPS delivery agent and customs of the contents of each package mailed. Since this advisory information arrives before the mail, CPAS facilitates and simplifies customs clearance. Electronic pre-notification of the package contents and automatic preparation of required customs declarations assures the fastest clearance through customs in Hong Kong and reduces costs for the mailer and the Postal Service. To use CPAS, recipients of merchandise must

designate the Postal Service and its customs broker as their agents for customs clearance.

Any customs duties and taxes for Hong Kong will be collected from the package recipient upon delivery in Hong Kong.

E. Delivery Options

Hong Kong

The Postal Service will offer one delivery option in Hong Kong: Premium Service. Premium Service shall receive a level of service comparable to Express Mail International Service (EMS) service in Hong Kong. It will include track and trace for individual packages and delivery throughout Hong Kong within 1 to 2 business days after clearing customs. Premium Service includes insurance, as provided under DMM S500, at no additional cost.

The Postal Service will transport Premium Service packages from the mailer's plant or designated GPL processing facility to Hong Kong via airlift. Packages will be dispatched to flights either the evening that processing is complete or the next morning. Arrival in Hong Kong is expected within 36 hours after dispatch.

F. Rates

Hong Kong

The base rates for GPL service to Hong Kong are set forth below. The Postal Service will charge the base rates, in 1-pound increments, for the first 100,000 packages mailed in a 12-month period. Once the mailer has mailed 100,000 packages, postage for the next packages mailed by the mailer in the same 12-month period will be reduced by 3% from the base rates.

GLOBAL PACKAGE LINK TO HONG KONG

| Weight not over (pounds) | Annual volume first 100,000 packages—no discount premium service (dollars) |
|--------------------------|--|
| 1 | 15.55 |
| 2 | 18.75 |
| 3 | 22.00 |
| 4 | 25.20 |
| 5 | 28.45 |
| 6 | 31.65 |
| 7 | 34.90 |
| 8 | 38.10 |
| 9 | 41.35 |
| 10 | 44.55 |
| 11 | 47.80 |
| 12 | 51.00 |
| 13 | 54.25 |
| 14 | 57.45 |
| 15 | 60.70 |
| 16 | 63.90 |

GLOBAL PACKAGE LINK TO HONG KONG—Continued

| Weight not over (pounds) | Annual volume first 100,000 packages—no discount premium service (dollars) |
|--------------------------|--|
| 17 | 67.15 |
| 18 | 70.35 |
| 19 | 73.60 |
| 20 | 76.80 |
| 21 | 80.05 |
| 22 | 83.25 |
| 23 | 86.50 |
| 24 | 89.70 |
| 25 | 92.90 |
| 26 | 96.15 |
| 27 | 99.35 |
| 28 | 102.60 |
| 29 | 105.80 |
| 30 | 109.05 |
| 31 | 112.25 |
| 32 | 115.50 |
| 33 | 118.70 |
| 34 | 121.95 |
| 35 | 125.15 |
| 36 | 128.40 |
| 37 | 131.60 |
| 38 | 134.85 |
| 39 | 138.05 |
| 40 | 141.30 |
| 41 | 144.50 |
| 42 | 147.75 |
| 43 | 150.95 |
| 44 | 154.20 |

| Number of pieces in contract year | Discount |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1–100,000 | None. |
| 100,001+ | 3 percent of base rate. |

III. Conclusion

Accordingly, the Postal Service hereby adopts GPL service to Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, on an interim basis, at the rates set forth in the schedules above. Although 39 U.S.C. 407 does not require advance notice and opportunity for submission of comments, and the Postal Service is exempted by 39 U.S.C. 410(a) from the advance notice requirements of the Administrative Procedure Act regarding proposed rulemaking (5 U.S.C. 553), the Postal Service invites interested persons to submit written data, views, or arguments concerning this interim rule.

The Postal Service adopts the following amendments to the International Mail Manual, which is incorporated by reference in the Code of Federal Regulations. See 39 CFR 20.1.

List of Subjects in 39 CFR Part 20

International postal service, Foreign relations.

PART 20—[AMENDED]

1. The authority citation for 39 CFR part 20 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 5 U.S.C. 552(a); 39 U.S.C. 401, 404, 407, 408.

2. Effective on September 24, 1997, subchapter 620 and the Individual Country Listing pages for Hong Kong in the International Mail Manual are amended as follows:

6 Special Programs

* * * * *

621.3 Availability

Global Package Link service is available only to Brazil, Canada, Chile, People's Republic of China, France, Germany, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, Japan, Mexico, Singapore, and the United Kingdom.

* * * * *

623 General

* * * * *

623.3 Size and Weight Limits

[Replace first sentence in paragraph with:]

The weight limits for Global Package Link service are 70 pounds for Chile, China, and Germany; 66 pounds for Brazil, Canada, France, Singapore, and the United Kingdom; 64 pounds for Mexico; and 44 pounds for Japan and Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

[Replace second sentence in paragraph with:]

The maximum length of GPL packages is 60 inches and the maximum length and girth combined is 108 inches, with the following exceptions: Maximum size for Germany is length 47 inches, height 23 inches, width 23 inches; maximum size for the People's Republic of China and Hong Kong Special Administrative Region for any one dimension is 59 inches; the sum of the length and the greatest circumference measured in a direction other than the length shall not exceed 118 inches; Japan Standard packages weighing less than 1 pound, the maximum length is 24 inches with a height and depth and length combined maximum of 36 inches.

* * * * *

626 Services Available

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626.4 Customs

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626.43 Payment of Customs Duty
626.431 All Countries Except Japan, the People's Republic of China, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, and Singapore

For all countries except Japan, the People's Republic of China, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, and Singapore, the Postal Service will arrange payment of customs duty on behalf of the recipient at the time the merchandise enters the country of destination. Any banking costs or foreign exchange fees applicable to the customs payments will be charged back to the mailer. The Postal Service will notify the mailer electronically of the amount of duty and fees paid and the mailer will reimburse the Postal Service in a manner and within a time frame agreed to by the mailer and the Postal Service. Because of the need to have funds available for customs at the time of clearance in Brazil, Chile, and Mexico, mailers must make an advance deposit prior to first mailing to cover anticipated duties and taxes in addition to postage. For subsequent mailings, this account must be replenished by the mailer after the actual amount of duties and taxes is assessed. The mailer is responsible for collecting duties and taxes from the recipient (this can be done when payment for the order is made). For Mexico, GPL mailers will pay customs the day after the shipments arrive in customs, through a pre-authorized Automated Clearing House (ACH) debit program. GPL mailers must agree to allow the USPS to debit their designated bank account through the ACH debit program to pay these charges.

626.432 Japan, the People's Republic of China, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, and Singapore

In Japan, the People's Republic of China, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, and Singapore, any customs duties and fees will be collected from the recipient at the time of delivery.

* * * * *

Individual Country Listing for Hong Kong:

[Add the rate chart below.]

GLOBAL PACKAGE LINK SERVICE TO HONG KONG

| Weight not over (pounds) | Annual volume first 100,000 packages—no discount, premium service (dollars) |
|--------------------------|---|
| 1 | 15.55 |

GLOBAL PACKAGE LINK SERVICE TO HONG KONG—Continued

| Weight not over (pounds) | Annual volume first 100,000 packages—no discount, premium service (dollars) |
|--------------------------|---|
| 2 | 18.75 |
| 3 | 22.00 |
| 4 | 25.20 |
| 5 | 28.45 |
| 6 | 31.65 |
| 7 | 34.90 |
| 8 | 38.10 |
| 9 | 41.35 |
| 10 | 44.55 |
| 11 | 47.80 |
| 12 | 51.00 |
| 13 | 54.25 |
| 14 | 57.45 |
| 15 | 60.70 |
| 16 | 63.90 |
| 17 | 67.15 |
| 18 | 70.35 |
| 19 | 73.60 |
| 20 | 76.80 |
| 21 | 80.05 |
| 22 | 83.25 |
| 23 | 86.50 |
| 24 | 89.70 |
| 25 | 92.90 |
| 26 | 96.15 |
| 27 | 99.35 |
| 28 | 102.60 |
| 29 | 105.80 |
| 30 | 109.05 |
| 31 | 112.25 |
| 32 | 115.50 |
| 33 | 118.70 |
| 34 | 121.95 |
| 35 | 125.15 |
| 36 | 128.40 |
| 37 | 131.60 |
| 38 | 134.85 |
| 39 | 138.05 |
| 40 | 141.30 |
| 41 | 144.50 |
| 42 | 147.75 |
| 43 | 150.95 |
| 44 | 154.20 |

| Number of pieces in contract year | Discount |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1–100,000 | None |
| 100,001+ | 3 percent of base rate. |

* * * * *

Stanley F. Mires,
Chief Counsel Legislative.
 [FR Doc. 97–25356 Filed 9–23–97; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 7710–12–P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Part 180
[OPP–300545; FRL–5741–2]
RIN 2070–AB78

Maneb; Pesticide Tolerances for Emergency Exemptions

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).
ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: This regulation establishes time-limited tolerances for residues of maneb (manganous ethylenebisdithiocarbamate), calculated as zinc ethylenebisdithiocarbamate, and its metabolite ethylenethiourea in or on walnuts. This action is in connection with a crisis exemption declared by the state of California under section 18 of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act authorizing use of the pesticides on walnuts in California. This regulation establishes a maximum permissible level for residues of maneb in this food commodity pursuant to section 408(l)(6) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, as amended by the Food Quality Protection Act of 1996. The tolerance will expire and is revoked on June 15, 1998.

DATES: This regulation is effective September 24, 1997. Objections and requests for hearings must be received by EPA on or before November 24, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Written objections and hearing requests, identified by the docket control number, [OPP–300545], must be submitted to: Hearing Clerk (1900), Environmental Protection Agency, Rm. M3708, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460. Fees accompanying objections and hearing requests shall be labeled “Tolerance Petition Fees” and forwarded to: EPA Headquarters Accounting Operations Branch, OPP (Tolerance Fees), P.O. Box 360277M, Pittsburgh, PA 15251. A copy of any objections and hearing requests filed with the Hearing Clerk identified by the docket control number, [OPP–300545], must also be submitted to: Public Information and Records Integrity Branch, Information Resources and Services Division (7506C), Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460. In person, bring a copy of objections and hearing requests to Rm. 1132, CM #2, 1921 Jefferson Davis Hwy., Arlington, VA.

A copy of objections and hearing requests filed with the Hearing Clerk may also be submitted electronically by sending electronic mail (e-mail) to: opp-

docket@epamail.epa.gov. Copies of objections and hearing requests must be submitted as an ASCII file avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption. Copies of objections and hearing requests will also be accepted on disks in WordPerfect 5.1 file format or ASCII file format. All copies of objections and hearing requests in electronic form must be identified by the docket control number [OPP–300545]. No Confidential Business Information (CBI) should be submitted through e-mail. Electronic copies of objections and hearing requests on this rule may be filed online at many Federal Depository Libraries.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: By mail: Libby Pemberton, Registration Division 7505C, Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460. Office location, telephone number, and e-mail address: Crystal Mall #2, 1921 Jefferson Davis Hwy., Arlington, VA, (703) 308-9364, e-mail: pemberton.libby@epamail.epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: EPA, on its own initiative, pursuant to section 408(e) and (l)(6) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA), 21 U.S.C. 346a(e) and (l)(6), is establishing tolerances for residues of the fungicide maneb (manganous ethylenebisdithiocarbamate), calculated as zinc ethylenebisdithiocarbamate and its metabolite ethylenethiourea, in or on walnuts at 0.05 part per million (ppm). This tolerance will expire and is revoked on June 15, 1998. EPA will publish a document in the **Federal Register** to remove the revoked tolerance from the Code of Federal Regulations.

I. Background and Statutory Authority

The Food Quality Protection Act of 1996 (FQPA) (Pub. L. 104–170) was signed into law August 3, 1996. FQPA amends both the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA), 21 U.S.C. 301 *et seq.*, and the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), 7 U.S.C. 136 *et seq.* The FQPA amendments went into effect immediately. Among other things, FQPA amends FFDCA to bring all EPA pesticide tolerance-setting activities under a new section 408 with a new safety standard and new procedures. These activities are described below and discussed in greater detail in the final rule establishing the time-limited tolerance associated with the emergency exemption for use of propiconazole on sorghum (61 FR 58135, November 13, 1996)(FRL–5572–9).