

or alternate participant because an individual's disability or blindness benefits are continued based on his or her participation in a VR program which we have determined will increase the likelihood that he or she will not return to the disability rolls.

* * * * *

§ 416.2203 [Amended]

■ 39. Amend § 416.2203 by removing the definition of *Good cause for VR refusal*.

§ 416.2209 [Amended]

■ 40. Amend § 416.2209 by removing paragraph (c) and redesignating paragraphs (d) through (h) as paragraphs (c) through (g).

§ 416.2213 [Removed]

■ 41. Remove § 416.2213.

§ 416.2216 [Amended]

■ 42. In § 416.2216, remove paragraph (c).

■ 43. Amend § 416.2217 by revising the introductory text and paragraph (f) to read as follows:

§ 416.2217 What costs will be paid.

In accordance with section 1615(d) and (e) of the Social Security Act, the Commissioner will pay the State VR agency or alternate participant for the VR services described in § 416.2214 which were provided during the period described in § 416.2215 and which meet the criteria in § 416.2211 or § 416.2212, but subject to the following limitations:

* * * * *

(f) Payment for VR services or costs may be made under more than one of the VR payment provisions described in §§ 416.2211 and 416.2212 of this subpart and similar provisions in §§ 404.2111 and 404.2112 of subpart V of part 404. However, payment will not be made more than once for the same VR service or cost; and

* * * * *

[FR Doc. 03-16858 Filed 7-3-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4191-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Food and Drug Administration

21 CFR Part 862

[Docket No. 2003D-0209]

Medical Devices; Clinical Chemistry and Clinical Toxicology Devices; Classification of the Breath Nitric Oxide Test System

AGENCY: Food and Drug Administration, HHS.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is classifying the breath nitric oxide test system into class II (special controls). The agency is taking this action in response to a petition submitted under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (the act) as amended by the Medical Device Amendments of 1976 (the 1976 amendments), the Safe Medical Devices Act of 1990 (the SMDA), and the Food and Drug Administration Modernization Act of 1997 (FDAMA). The agency is classifying this device into class II (special controls) in order to provide a reasonable assurance of safety and effectiveness of the device. Elsewhere in this issue of the **Federal Register**, FDA is announcing the availability of a guidance document that will serve as the special control for the device.

DATES: This rule is effective August 6, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jean Cooper, Center for Devices and Radiological Health (HFZ-440), Food and Drug Administration, 2098 Gaither Rd., Rockville, MD 20850, 301-594-1243.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

In accordance with section 513(f)(1) of the act (21 U.S.C. 360c(f)(1)), devices that were not in commercial distribution before May 28, 1976, the date of enactment of the amendments, generally referred to as postamendments devices, are classified automatically by statute into class III without any FDA rulemaking process. These devices remain in class III and require premarket approval, unless and until the device is classified or reclassified into class I or II, or FDA issues an order finding the device to be substantially equivalent, in accordance with section 513(i) of the act, to a predicate device that does not require premarket approval. The agency determines whether new devices are substantially

equivalent to previously marketed devices by means of premarket notification procedures in section 510(k) of the act (21 U.S.C. 360(k)) and 21 CFR part 807 of the FDA regulations.

Section 513(f)(2) of the act provides that any person who submits a premarket notification under section 510(k) of the act for a device that has not previously been classified may, within 30 days after receiving an order classifying the device in class III under section 513(f)(1) of the act, request FDA to classify the device under the criteria set forth in section 513(a)(1) of the act. FDA shall, within 60 days of receiving such a request, classify the device by written order. This classification shall be the initial classification of the device. Within 30 days after issuing an order classifying the device, FDA must publish a notice in the **Federal Register** announcing the classification.

On March 17, 2003, FDA received a petition submitted under section 513(f)(2) of the act by Aerocrine AB, through Certified Software Solutions, Inc., seeking an evaluation of the automatic class III designation of its NIOX BREATH NITRIC OXIDE TEST SYSTEM. In accordance with section 513(f)(1) of the act, FDA issued an order automatically classifying the NIOX BREATH NITRIC OXIDE TEST SYSTEM in class III because it was not substantially equivalent to a device that was introduced or delivered for introduction into interstate commerce for commercial distribution before May 28, 1976, or a device that was subsequently reclassified into class I or II. After reviewing information submitted in the petition, FDA determined that the NIOX BREATH NITRIC OXIDE TEST SYSTEM can be classified in class II with the establishment of special controls. This device is intended to aid in evaluating an asthma patient's response to anti-inflammatory therapy by measuring changes in fractional exhaled nitric oxide concentration in asthma patients, as an adjunct to established clinical and laboratory assessments of asthma. FDA believes that class II special controls, in addition to the general controls, will provide reasonable assurance of the safety and effectiveness of the device. FDA has identified the risk to health associated specifically with this type of device as improper patient management. Therefore, in addition to the general controls of the act, the device is subject to a special controls guidance document entitled "Class II Special Controls Guidance Document: Breath Nitric Oxide Test System."

The class II special controls guidance provides information on how to meet

premarket (510(k)) submission requirements for the device, including recommendations for labeling and performance studies. FDA believes that adherence to the class II special controls addresses the potential risk to health identified in the previous paragraph and provides a reasonable assurance of the safety and effectiveness of the device.

Following the effective date of this final classification rule, any firm submitting a 510(k) premarket notification for a breath nitric oxide test system will need to address the issues covered in the special controls guidance document. However, the firm need only show that its device meets the recommendations of the guidance or in some other way provides equivalent assurances of safety and effectiveness.

Section 510(m) of the act provides that FDA may exempt a class II device from the premarket notification requirement under section 510(k) of the act, if FDA determines that premarket notification is not necessary to provide reasonable assurance of the safety and effectiveness of the device. For this type of device, FDA has determined that premarket notification is necessary to provide reasonable assurance of safety and effectiveness and, therefore, the device is not exempt from the premarket notification requirements. The device is used as an aid in evaluating an asthma patient's response to anti-inflammatory therapy by measuring changes in fractional exhaled nitric oxide concentration in asthma patients, as an adjunct to established clinical and laboratory assessments of asthma. FDA review of performance characteristics and labeling will ensure that acceptable levels of performance for both safety and effectiveness are addressed before marketing clearance. Thus, persons who intend to market this device must submit to FDA a premarket notification submission containing information on the breath nitric oxide test system before marketing the device.

On April 30, 2003, FDA issued an order classifying the NIOX BREATH NITRIC OXIDE TEST SYSTEM and substantially equivalent devices of this generic type into class II under the generic name, breath nitric oxide test system. FDA identifies this generic type of device as a breath nitric oxide test system, which is intended to aid in evaluating an asthma patient's response to anti-inflammatory therapy by measuring changes in fractional exhaled nitric oxide concentration in asthma patients, as an adjunct to established clinical and laboratory assessments of asthma.

FDA is codifying this device by adding § 862.3080. The order also

identifies a special control applicable to this device, a guidance document entitled "Class II Special Controls Guidance Document: Breath Nitric Oxide Test System."

II. Electronic Access

In order to receive the guidance entitled "Class II Special Controls Guidance Document: Breath Nitric Oxide Test System" via your fax machine, call the CDRH Facts-on-Demand system at 800-899-0381 or 301-827-0111 from a touch-tone telephone. At the first voice prompt, press 1 to enter the system. At the second voice prompt, press 1 to order a document. Enter the document number (1211) followed by the pound sign (#). Follow the remaining voice prompts to complete your request.

Persons interested in obtaining a copy of the guidance may also do so using the Internet. CDRH maintains an entry on the Internet for easy access to information including text, graphics, and files that may be downloaded to a personal computer with Internet access. Updated on a regular basis, the CDRH home page includes the civil money penalty guidance documents package, device safety alerts, **Federal Register** reprints, information on premarket submissions (including lists of approved applications and manufacturers' addresses), small manufacturers' assistance, information on video conferencing and electronic submissions, Mammography Matters, and other device-oriented information. The CDRH home page may be accessed at <http://www.fda.gov/cdrh>.

III. Environmental Impact

The agency has determined under 21 CFR 25.34(b) that this action is of a type that does not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment. Therefore, neither an environmental assessment nor an environmental impact statement is required.

IV. Analysis of Impacts

FDA has examined the impacts of the final rule under Executive Order 12866 and the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601-612), and the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (Public Law 104-4). Executive Order 12866 directs agencies to assess all costs and benefits of available regulatory alternatives and, when regulation is necessary, to select regulatory approaches that maximize net benefits (including potential economic, environmental, public health and safety, and other advantages; distributive impacts; and equity). The agency

believes that this final rule is consistent with the regulatory philosophy and principles identified in the Executive order. In addition, the final rule is not a significant regulatory action as defined by the Executive order and so it is not subject to review under the Executive order.

The Regulatory Flexibility Act requires agencies to analyze regulatory options that would minimize any significant impact of a rule on small entities. FDA knows of only one manufacturer of this type of device. Classification of these devices from class III to class II will relieve manufacturers of the device of the cost of complying with the premarket approval requirements of section 515 of the act (21 U.S.C. 360e), and may permit small potential competitors to enter the marketplace by lowering their costs. The agency, therefore, certifies that the final rule will not have a significant impact on a substantial number of small entities. In addition, this final rule will not impose costs of \$100 million or more on either the private sector or State, local, and tribal governments in the aggregate and, therefore, a summary statement of analysis under section 202(a) of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act is not required.

V. Federalism

FDA has analyzed this final rule in accordance with the principles set forth in Executive Order 13132. FDA has determined that the rule does not contain policies that have substantial direct effects on the States, on the relationship between the National Government and the States, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities among the various levels of government. Accordingly, the agency has concluded that the rule does not contain policies that have federalism implications as defined in the Executive order and, consequently, a federalism summary impact statement is not required.

VI. Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995

This final rule contains no collections of information. Therefore, clearance by the Office of Management and Budget under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 is not required.

List of Subjects in 21 CFR Part 862

Medical devices.

■ Therefore, under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act and under authority delegated to the Commissioner of Food and Drugs, 21 CFR part 862 is amended as follows:

PART 862—CLINICAL CHEMISTRY AND CLINICAL TOXICOLOGY DEVICES

1. The authority citation for 21 CFR part 862 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 21 U.S.C. 351, 360, 360c, 360e, 360j, 371.

■ 2. Section 862.3080 is added to subpart D to read as follows:

§ 862.3080 Breath nitric oxide test system.

(a) *Identification.* A breath nitric oxide test system is a device intended to measure fractional nitric oxide in human breath. Measurement of changes in fractional nitric oxide concentration in expired breath aids in evaluating an asthma patient's response to anti-inflammatory therapy, as an adjunct to established clinical and laboratory assessments of asthma. A breath nitric oxide test system combines chemiluminescence detection of nitric oxide with a pneumotachograph, display, and dedicated software.

(b) *Classification.* Class II (special controls). The special control is FDA's guidance entitled "Class II Special Controls Guidance Document: Breath Nitric Oxide Test System." See § 862.1(d) for the availability of this guidance document.

Dated: June 23, 2003.

Linda S. Kahan,

Deputy Director, Center for Devices and Radiological Health.

[FR Doc. 03-16953 Filed 7-3-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4160-01-S

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

22 CFR Part 41

[Public Notice 4393]

VISAS: Documentation of Nonimmigrants Under the Immigration and Nationality Act, as Amended; Personal Appearance

AGENCY: Department of State.

ACTION: Interim rule with request for comments.

SUMMARY: This interim rule brings Department regulations into line with, and allows further expansion of, post-9/11 policy guidance issued by the Department that has increasingly restricted the number of instances in which the interview of a nonimmigrant visa applicant may be waived. The regulation significantly reduces the number and kind of situations in which the usual requirement that a nonimmigrant visa applicant appear before an officer for a personal interview

may be waived by the consular officer, while making express the Department's authority to set interview policies centrally. The Department is taking this regulatory action in order to further develop the new legal framework necessary to support a series of steps undertaken in order to more adequately ensure the security and integrity of nonimmigrant visa application and issuance procedures. Upon publication of this rule, certain visa applicants who previously may have had their personal appearance before a consular officer for the purpose of applying for a nonimmigrant visa waived will be required by regulation to make such an appearance to be interviewed. In practice, however, many of these applicants are already being interviewed, based on internal Department guidance or decisions made at consular posts.

DATES: *Effective date:* This rule is effective August 1, 2003.

Comment date: Written comments may be submitted within 60 days of the date of publication of this document in the **Federal Register**.

ADDRESSES: Written comments may be submitted, in duplicate, to the Legislation and Regulations Division, Visa Services, Department of State, Washington, DC 20520-0106, or by e-mail to visaregs@state.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Elizabeth J. Harper, Legislation and Regulations Division, Visa Services, Department of State, Washington, DC 20520-0106, (202) 663-1221.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

What Is the Origin of the Waiver of Appearance Rule?

The Immigration and Nationality Act, section 222(e), requires that all applicants for immigrant visas appear personally before a consular officer, but leaves the question of personal appearance of nonimmigrant visa applicants to be defined by regulation. The Department's regulations state a usual requirement of personal appearance by nonimmigrant visa applicants, but for at least forty years have defined a range of applicants whose appearance may be waived by the consular officer—*i.e.*, granted a "personal appearance waiver" or "PAW."

What Change Is Being Made?

Because of heightened security concerns in the period immediately following September 11, the Department undertook a thorough review of its visa application and issuance procedures. As a result of that review, consular officers

have begun to interview a much larger percentage of nonimmigrant visa applicants than they did prior to September 11, both in response to Department internal guidance and as a result of decisions made at consular posts. Because of the continuing need to ensure that the visa process is focused on security concerns, the Department believes it is desirable to codify the changed practice into regulation and to provide a regulatory basis for further adjusting the interview exemptions through centralized direction, as appropriate. This rule is intended to reflect the current scope and use of consular and Departmental personal appearance waiver authority. This amended version of the regulation generally permits waivers of the interview by consular officers in significantly fewer kinds of cases than the regulation being amended. The one exception is that the regulation raises the age of children who may qualify for consular officer interview waivers from age 14 to age 16. Consular officers will no longer have broad discretion under regulation to grant PAWs with respect to applicants for B, C-1, H-1, I, J and crew visas. In certain circumstances, however, officers will have discretion to grant PAWs for applicants for any category of nonimmigrant visa who have previously been issued a visa in the same category for which they are applying. The amended regulation continues consular authority for granting PAWs to diplomats and officials of international organizations. Further, it will allow the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Visa Services to waive the personal appearance requirement in specific situations, *i.e.*, when the Department determines, centrally, that the waiver would not be inconsistent with homeland security interests. Thus, the regulation effectively shifts to the Department authority to make a number of interview waiver decisions previously made at consular posts.

Which Applicants May Still Benefit From a Consul's Authority To Waive Personal Appearance?

Under the revised regulation, a consular officer may waive the personal appearance of a visa applicant in six specific categories. These are: (1) Children age 16 and under; (2) persons age 60 years or older; (3) most of the applicants within a class of nonimmigrants classifiable under the visa symbols A, C-2, C-3, G, or NATO (with the exception of attendants, servants and personal employees); (4) aliens applying for diplomatic or official visas, as defined in 22 CFR 41.26 and