

# Environmental Policy Monthly

---

---

Volume I, Issue 8

February 1998

---

---

## *In this issue . . .*

- A Word from the Bureau of Environmental Monitoring and Data Processing: Promoting Individual and Community Air Quality Monitoring Efforts
- EPA Strengthens Communication with Foreign Business Community
- 1998 General Containers Recycling Fee Rates Formally Announced
- Amendments to the Enforcement Rules for Toxics Act Submitted to Executive Yuan
- EPA to Establish Legislative Streamlining Committee
- EPA to Determine Type of Oil Storage Tanks Requiring EIAs
- EIA Air Pollution Technology Criteria to be Studied
- Structure of Marine Pollution Control Act to be Drafted
- News Briefs

## ***A Word from the Bureau of Environmental Monitoring and Data Processing: Promoting Individual and Community Air Quality Monitoring Efforts***

Since its establishment, the EPA has effectively monitored and controlled air quality conditions throughout Taiwan, and has actively promoted comprehensive air quality monitoring and forecasting work. In 1996, following years of preparation, the EPA started to do forecasts in all regions of Taiwan to provide the public with current and next-day air quality information. However, as public demand for a higher quality living environment has increased over the years, the EPA has strengthened public services and is developing an air quality monitoring enhancement plan to promote the monitoring of community air quality and individual exposure assessment.

Starting this year, in coordination with community efforts to promote a new living environment, four communities located near EPA air monitoring stations in the Taipei and Kaohsiung metropolitan areas were selected as the first round of targets for pilot tests. Volunteers in each community will be solicited for participation in the sampling

process and will be divided into two major groups -- indoor and outdoor activity sampling groups. Volunteers will wear portable sampling instruments and record their daily activities throughout the sampling period. The information provided will then be used for analysis. The scope of the sampling will include pilot communities, in and around participants' homes, and the environments immediately surrounding the volunteers.

Given that sample monitoring technology for community and individual air quality is still in the developmental stages and the unique characteristics of air pollution in Taiwan, the EPA plans to use particulate matter (PM10) and ozone (O<sub>3</sub>) -- the two worst air pollutants in Taiwan -- as targeted substances for the first round of tests. Furthermore, in an international environmental protection cooperation program between Taiwan and Sweden this year, the EPA has been acquiring technology and information related to passive sample monitoring. The EPA will also conduct a seminar to broadly collect and compile the air quality sample monitoring technologies of advanced nations in Europe and North America. The seminar will be timed to use the actual experiences gathered from tests performed this year for further discussions on the suitability of Taiwan's exposure assessment technology and its current monitoring policy.

Through actual public participation in the air quality sampling process and the results of sample monitoring, both communities and individuals can become informed of air quality conditions near their homes and pollution exposure levels. The plan can also serve to lay the foundation for Taiwan's own pollution exposure monitoring and assessment technology and strengthen the EPA's own air quality monitoring efforts, thereby enabling it to effectively respond to air quality conditions. Most importantly, by using a model based on direct community participation, the efforts of the government and public can be combined to monitor air quality and therefore create a comprehensive awareness of communities' living environments.

### ***EPA Strengthens Communication with Foreign Business Community***

At the invitation of the American Chamber of Commerce, the Director General of the EPA's Office of Science and Technology Advisors, Dr. Chau-Yuan Yang, made a presentation to the Chamber's Environmental Protection Committee at a January 21

breakfast meeting. Director General Yang's presentation was titled "Application of Taiwan's Environmental Economic Instruments." In addition to outlining the status of environmental loading in Taiwan, Dr. Yang also reported on the status and results of applying environmental economic mechanisms to the areas of waste management and air and water pollution control.

After delivering the first part of his presentation on the status of domestic environmental protection activities, Dr. Yang specially mentioned the importance of communicating with the foreign business community in Taiwan. He then went on to emphasize that the successes of applying environmental economic instruments depends on the cooperation and support of government agencies, legislative bodies, NGOs, and the media. Dr. Yang further mentioned that foreign businesses can also support these efforts by enhancing their communication with local-level government agencies – an activity for which the EPA is willing to provide assistance.

In the discussion following the presentation, attendees raised a range of questions, such as whether water pollution fees can be lowered, the factors that were considered when setting air and water pollution fee rates, the amount of industrial waste generated and how it is treated, and whether consideration has been given to using a system of tradable pollution permits.

Finally, the attendees expressed that they highly valued the EPA's *Environmental Policy Monthly* and thanked the EPA for its efforts in enhancing regulatory transparency in Taiwan.

### ***1998 General Containers Recycling Fee Rates Formally Announced***

The 1998 recycling fee rates for general containers examined and approved by the Fee Review Committee on December 17, 1997 were an issue of concern to industry, environmental groups, and the general public. Of these, particularly industry groups expressed opposition to the nearly ten-fold increase in recycling fee rates suggested by the Recycling Fund Management Committee. The EPA held an explanatory meeting on December 19 to address the issue, and the Fee Review Committee convened a second session on the 24<sup>th</sup> to amend the results of the first review. The results of the second session were then announced at a press conference held on the 30<sup>th</sup>. However, in

response to the continued dissatisfaction of industry, the EPA convened a third session on January 7, 1998 and completed formal announcement of the rates on the 8<sup>th</sup>, finally bringing the dispute to a close.

Apart from aluminum containers, aseptic packaging (such as Tetrapak<sup>®</sup> containers), paper containers, and non-foamed PS containers, the recycling fee rates for all other containers shall be calculated using recycling costs based on a 70% waste collection rate. The rates for aluminum and non-foamed PS containers shall be calculated according to waste disposal costs. The rates for aseptic packaging and paper containers shall be calculated according to the cost of recycling and the proportion such materials account for the entire container. To encourage manufacturers to use attached pull tabs on aluminum cans, fee rates for this type of container will be decreased by 10%. As an inducement to use single material packaging, the fee rates for containers made of only one kind of plastic (PET, PP, PE, or other plastic) will be reduced by NT\$1 per container.

Shi-Hua Lin, Chairman of the Fee Review Committee, indicated that as businesses still have misgivings over the data used in its examination and approval of the rates, it will again require that the Recycling Fund Management Committee provide it with recycling costs that are certain to be accurate. These costs will be provided after first quarter 1998 and used by the committee to adjust the rates. Therefore, the rates already officially announced will be in effect for only part of 1998. Moreover, improvements to the recycling fee rates examination and approval process should eliminate the need for repeated fee rate review sessions.

1998 General Containers Recycling Fee Rates	
<i>Container material</i>	<i>Fee rate (NT\$ per kilogram)</i>
Iron	\$3.16
	\$2.80 (attached pull tabs)
Aluminum	\$3.93
	\$3.50 (attached pull tabs)
Glass	\$3.23
Aseptic packaging (such as Tetrapak <sup>®</sup> )	\$11.11
Paper	\$3.94

PET	\$14.01, or \$3.01 (for single material containers) Add \$0.70 per bottle for deposit
PVC	\$19.55 Add \$0.70 per bottle for deposit
PP, PE, and other plastics	\$12.03 or \$11.03 (for single material container)
Non-foamed PS	\$9.00
Foamed PS	\$42.57
Source: EPA	

### ***Amendments to the Enforcement Rules for Toxics Act Submitted to Executive Yuan***

On November 19, 1997, the *Toxic Chemical Substances Control Act* was amended and announced. The EPA held consultations and a public hearing on a draft of implementation guidelines for the Act on January 12, 1998, and submitted the guidelines to the Executive Yuan on January 16.

The recently amended Act designates three systems of toxic substances control: permitting, registration, and automatic qualification. In the recent amendments, the EPA has related each of these control systems to categories of activities related to toxic substances. Companies that engage in activities such as the manufacturing, import, and sale of toxic chemical substances will be required to obtain a permit for these activities. Companies that use, store, and dispose of such substances will be required to register these activities and the related substances with government authorities. The transport of toxic substances will continue to be controlled according to transport control regulations within the Act.

In terms of permit application documentation, apart from required supporting documents specified in the current draft of the enforcement rules, additional documents including a diagram of the site where the handling activities occur and information on other types of toxic chemicals related to the manufacturing process were added. Companies should be aware that information required by the EPA shall not be limited to toxicity alone. The application for a permit to manufacture or import toxic chemical

substances shall be made to the local competent authority for approval and issuance by the EPA. The application for a permit to sell toxic substances shall be made to the local competent authority for approval and issuance by the relevant provincial or municipal authority.

Regarding the export of toxic chemical substances, current regulations permit such activity only following application to the EPA and approval of the export documentation. To simplify controls, the draft stipulates that a transport manifest is to replace the approval document. When applying for the transport manifest, the following documents will be required: 1) an order or letter of credit from the foreign purchaser; 2) proper labeling on packages and containers of toxic chemicals, and material safety data sheets; and 3) proof of origin.

Apart from the above, the new draft does not contain current regulations related to early detection and warning. The EPA will separately draft the scope of the *Regulations Governing the Installation and Operation of Toxic Chemical Substance Early Detection and Warning Equipment*. Restrictions concerning the sites that store toxic substances, as stated in Chapter 25 of the current enforcement rules, have also been removed by the new draft. These activities will be defined and controlled in *Operational Guidelines Concerning Toxic Chemical Substance Permitting and Registration*.

When a company suspends related toxic substance handling activities, the draft stipulates that the permit shall be returned within 30 days. Failure to do so shall result in its cancellation by the issuing competent authority. A party that has suspended handling activities for less than one year may apply to continue its handling activities, and the permit shall be reissued by the competent authority. However, as specified in Chapter 19 of the Act, application to continue the activities shall not be allowed under any of the following circumstances: 1) suspension of related activities without approval for over one year; 2) suspension of related activities for over 6 months during which time the competent authority suspects that the environment was polluted or human health harmed; or 3) revocation of a permit, cancellation of registration, or the ordered closure of a business.

In the event of an accident, as specified in Chapter 22 of the Act, companies shall adopt emergency prevention measures and make a report to the local authorities within

one hour of the accident. The draft clearly defines the local authority as the authority within the location that the accident took place. Appropriate emergency response measures have also been clearly indicated.

As these amendments signify a considerable change in control policy, the draft also stipulates that a company undertaking related activities with a permit, authorization or registration document that was issued prior to the act's amendment shall, in accordance with the time limit announced by the EPA, apply to have it renewed.

## *EPA to Establish Legislative Streamlining Committee*

According to a National Development Committee summary report on economic development, the speed of "government reengineering" in Taiwan must be accelerated to raise administrative efficiency as part of the effort to create a new "small but capable" government. Toward this end, the Executive Yuan has actively worked to promote a "single window" administration and recently promulgated the *Executive Yuan Supervised Agencies Single Window Administration Implementation Plan*.

During a discussion of the draft *Principles of Government Reengineering* on January 2, 1998, the Executive Yuan further stressed that the government's role should be readjusted, public participation expanded, laws and regulations made more reasonable, and procedures simplified. In cooperation with and to help promote this round of "government reengineering," the EPA decided to establish the *Single Window Administration and Regulatory Streamlining Implementation Committee*.

According to draft guidelines for the establishment of this committee, the committee's goal is to thoroughly review EPA measures, laws, and regulations. Its objectives are to raise the quality of government service, eliminate unnecessary regulatory restrictions, simplify the case application and approval process, and shorten case approval time. The following are specific tasks of the committee:

1. Review the division of responsibility between central and local governments. Empower local government where appropriate.
2. Review the possibility of replacing the permit system with a registration process.

3. Review the permitting of environmental protection businesses and professional (technical) personnel. Relax the process or give exemptions where appropriate.
4. Review the possibility of contracting private organizations to handle certain EPA functions.
5. Simplify multi-layered administrative processes and reduce approval time.
6. Combine regulations concerning adoption of the principle of single-window administration, and perform simultaneous review and joint inspections.
7. Look into other acts and regulatory measures that are in urgent need of being streamlined.

In addition to heads of various EPA units concurrently serving on the committee, industry and business representatives and academic experts may also be invited to become members. The EPA Deputy Administrator will chair the committee and the Director General of the EPA's Bureau of Performance Evaluation and Dispute Management will serve as executive secretary. The committee will establish three task forces to carry out the activities of plan implementation, regulatory drafting, and policy promotion. The committee will convene every two weeks. Resolutions passed by the committee will be sent to the Administrator for approval and then implemented by the relevant EPA unit if approved.

## *EPA to Determine Type of Oil Storage Tanks Requiring EIAs*

Although current regulations require an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for oil or gas pipelines exceeding 50 kilometers in length, the construction of oil storage tanks is currently exempt from EIA requirements. The Taiwan Provincial Government had earlier been in discussions with Formosa Plastics Corporation regarding a plan to build eight oil storage tanks, each with a capacity of 10,000 kiloliters (kl), in the Taichung Harbor Protection Zone. The fact that this type of project is exempt from EIA requirements has prompted the concerns of environmental protection groups. Therefore, on January 20, 1998, the EPA began to study and hold discussions on the

standards that should be used for determining the provisions and scope of an EIA for such projects.

According to the EPA, the potential environmental impacts of oil storage tanks include air emissions through leaks and volatilization, noise pollution, traffic and transportation impacts, underground water contamination, and effects on surrounding land usage. Presently, no regulation stipulates that an EIA should be performed for such projects. However, according to Article 32 of the *Criteria for Determining EIA Items and Scope for Development Activities*, the EPA may, as it sees fit, announce additional standards to be used for determining the items and scope of an EIA.

After gathering related information from around the world, the city of Tokyo was found to have regulations that require an EIA be performed for petroleum storage tanks with a capacity in excess of 30,000 kl. This standard was therefore chosen as a point of reference for such projects in Taiwan.

On another note, according to the aforementioned criteria, an EIA must be performed on all oil storage tank projects planned in any of the following areas: 1) national parks; 2) wildlife preserves or important habitats; 3) reservoirs; 4) drinking water water quality protection zones; and 5) mountain slopes where the area of planned development exceeds one hectare.

As regulations require cement storage warehouses planned for construction in port zones to perform EIAs regardless of scale, the EPA decided to require the same of oil storage tanks. Moreover, regardless of being situated on urban land or non-urban land, oil storage tank projects, with an aggregate volume or development area that exceeds a certain size shall also perform an EIA. This approach is intended to prevent businesses from evading government controls by spreading out their projects.

In terms of a definition for oil storage tanks, the EPA indicated that “petroleum and petroleum products” storage tanks would be used in reference to related regulations of the Ministry of Economic Affairs Energy Commission.

Regarding gas storage tank projects (for natural gas), the EPA will study and draft standards that should be used for determining the provisions and scope of an EIA for such projects.

# ***EIA Air Pollution Technology Criteria to be Studied***

According to Article 49 of the recently announced *Work Procedures for Environmental Impact Assessments*, the EPA is required to define the standards for techniques related to environmental impact assessments (EIAs). In order to define the scope of pollution forecasting and estimation modeling used in EIA work, the EPA recently formulated a comprehensive draft of *Standards of Air Pollution Estimation and Modeling Techniques*. The EPA has also engaged academics and consulting firms in further study and discussion of this issue.

All models and applicable conditions in the draft and approved by the EPA are listed in Figure 2. A model that has been approved by the EPA but which cannot be used practically may be substituted for another, provided that it meets the following conditions: 1) A comparison of the estimated values produced by the alternative and preferred models yields an error of less than 2% for the first and second highest concentration levels; 2) statistical estimates indicate that the preferred model more closely meets the actual air quality monitor values than the preferred model; 3) special usage dictates that there is no suitable optimum model, however, it is still necessary to carefully choose a model to satisfy regulatory requirements; and 4) use of the preferred model shall be approved by the EPA.

As to all information that must be entered into the model, the draft provides a reference directory that includes data on climate, pollution sources, topography, pollution receptors, air quality, and model control parameters. The draft has separate regulations that stipulate the method for pre-processing meteorological and topographic data. Furthermore, the simulation results should differentiate between the background, construction stage, and operational stage air quality simulations, and the method of presentation should be handled in accordance with regulations.

Work procedures shall be carried out in accordance with examination and verification list standards, and include an EIA explanatory document or report in the first draft. The simulation process and results shall include the following information:

1. A map indicating pollution sources to be assessed and other relevant items.
2. Data to ascertain urban and rural areas.

3. Pollution source information.
4. Air quality monitoring information.
5. Meteorological information.
6. Air quality modeling analysis.
7. Comparisons with related laws and regulations (such as air quality standards or total quantity control regulations).

In terms of the draft, given the number of models and speed of their modifications, conferees recommend regulating these activities through formal announcement rather than through listing. As the data required for EIAs is difficult to obtain, conferees also suggest that regulatory databases should be open to the public, especially those of state run enterprises and the military. The EPA said that it would stipulate which models may be used according to methods that are open to the public. In terms of the establishment and openness of databases, the EPA will provide its own monitoring stations and meteorological information, and will coordinate the sharing of database information between Taiwan Power Company, Chinese Petroleum Corp., and government agencies such as the Ministry of Defense.

EPA Approved Models for Air Pollution Forecasting and Evaluation (Draft)	
<i>Type</i>	<i>Suitable conditions</i>
BLP	Aluminum refining factories and point sources, simple topography, rural areas, hourly to average annual concentration forecasts.
CALINE3	Traffic transportation (highways), simple topography, rural and city areas with hourly to 24-hour pollution concentration forecasts.
CDM 2.0	Point and surface sources, flat topography, city areas, long-term (exceeding monthly) concentration forecasts.
RAM	Point and surface sources, flat topography, urban or city areas with hourly to average annual concentration forecasts.
ISC2	Point, line, surface and three-dimensional, simple topography, rural or urban areas with hourly to average annual concentration forecasts.
MPTER	Point sources, simple topography, rural or urban areas with hourly to average annual concentration forecasts.
CRSTER	Single point sources, simple topography, rural or urban areas with

	hourly to average annual concentration forecasts.
UAM	Urban areas that simulate conditions of foul smelling air, can only simulate average hourly forecasts.
OCD	Simulates coastal area pollution sources, for single project simulation.
EDMS	Evaluates simulations of military airbase and general airport pollution substances dispersal. Can be used to simulate stationary oil tanks and other point and mobile pollution sources. Simple topography, transport distance less than 50 kilometers, hourly to average annual concentration forecasts.
CTDMPLUS	Complex topography, Gauss point source simulation, rural or urban areas with hourly to average annual concentration forecasts.
Flat topography: No topographical rises or depressions whatsoever. Simple topography: Topographical rises lower than chimneys. Complex topography: Topographical rises higher than chimneys.	
Source: EPA	

## ***Structure of Marine Pollution Control Act to be Drafted***

Marine resource welfare and protection from pollution is becoming increasingly important as evidenced by a recent rash of marine pollution issues and given that 1998 was named International Year of the Sea by the United Nations. The EPA recently compiled years of research and discussion results into a draft of the *Marine Pollution Control Act*, and convened a meeting of experts, academics, and government agencies to study and discuss the overall structure of the act.

The draft will include 10 new Chapters, the first of which clearly defines its objective as to control marine area pollution, protect the marine environment, maintain marine ecology, and safeguard the health of citizens. The geographic scope of the act applies to marine areas including interior bodies of water, territorial waters, contingent reefs, and special economic maritime zones under the jurisdiction of Taiwan.

Chapter 2 sets out basic measures stipulating that the EPA may establish a Committee on Marine Pollution Control Response Measures to formulate marine pollution control policy. The draft also stipulates that businesses with activities related to wastewater effluent in marine preserves, coastal projects, marine area projects, waste

disposal in marine areas, and open ocean incineration obtain the proper permit and further possess the following: 1) pollution processing capabilities; 2) emergency response measures; and 3) financial guarantees or liability insurance.

The "basic measures" in Chapter 2 also include regulations related to national emergency response plan formulation, authority and responsibility of special enforcement institutions (such as maritime police), implementation of marine area monitoring, appropriate emergency accident pollution exclusions, institutions responsible for harbor pollution improvement and consultation, and the inspection and review authority of relevant government agencies.

In terms of controls, regulations for each type of pollution source are provided for in a separate Chapters of the draft. Chapter 3, entitled "Control of Land Source Pollution," the competent authority for harbor and land source pollution control is clearly defined, and the release of pollution into the ocean is regulated through a system of permitting, monitoring, and reporting. In Chapter 4, entitled "Prevention of Pollution from Engineering Projects in Coastal Zones," the business owner is obligated to use emergency response measures and notify the competent authority when pollution occurs. The competent authority may require compensation from the business owner for damage to natural resources or environmental ecology as the result of the polluting incident or emergency response measures taken by the business owner, and for the expenses of emergency response measures carried out by the competent authority. This pollution response and compensation requirement mechanism will also be applied to the pollution control of marine area projects and ocean dumping.

In Chapter 5, entitled "Prevention of Pollution from Marine Engineering Projects," business owners shall monitor and record their operations as well as the surrounding marine environment, and report to the EPA. Effluent should also be recorded and reported. Chapter 6, "Control of Pollution from Ocean-based Waste Handling," restricts the classification and work related to disposal of substances at sea. It also charges operators of ocean-based incineration or waste disposal activities to keep records and report to the competent authority.

Chapter 7, "Control of Pollution from Ships in Marine Areas," is the most important section in the draft. It stipulates that ships shall possess standard pollution control equipment, obtain a "Marine Pollution Prevention Certificate" from the relevant

navigational authority for approval to navigate. The draft also stipulates regulations related to the following: 1) Drainage restrictions and oil and chemical products offloading leak prevention measures; 2) construction, repair, dismantling, salvage, and cleaning work pollution prevention measures; 3) harbor pollution collection facilities installation; and 4) ships records examination and verification. As for pollution caused by shipping or aircraft accidents, owners or management personnel shall adopt pollution prevention, mediation, and removal measures, and immediately notify the relevant competent authority. Such parties may also be required to pay compensation for emergency response measures carried out by the competent authority.

Chapter 8 of the draft regulates pollution damages and compensation. It requires that each pollution accident shall carry with it "return to original state" and "damage compensation" responsibility. A number of mutually responsible individuals shall bear joint liability. The ship owner shall provide such parties with compensation liability insurance and, if the ship carries over 400 tons of oil or chemical products, shall also provide financial guarantees. In addition, the pollution victim may bypass the compensating party and apply directly with the insurance company for compensation. The request for compensatory damages must be made within two years of both parties being informed of the damages caused, and within ten years of when the damages occurred.

## *News Briefs*

### *Drinking Water Equipment Maintenance Regulations Announced*

The *Regulations Governing the Maintenance of Drinking Water Equipment* were formally announced on December 31, 1997, and will be implemented beginning on July 1, 1998. The regulations stipulate that any drinking water machines installed in public or private places for public use shall undergo monthly maintenance. Furthermore, a qualified inspection body shall be commissioned to sample and test water quality at least once a quarter. The sampling method shall consist of testing one in every eight machines, whereby a different machine is tested each time. A party that violates these regulations shall be punished with a fine of NT\$10,000~100,000.

*Environmental Impact Assessment Work Standards for Development Activities Announced*

A regulation entitled *Work Procedures for the Environmental Impact Assessment of Development Activities*, combining 21 Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) operational criteria categories was announced on December 31, 1997. Among these categories, the "Environmentally Sensitive and Special Target Zones" category encompass a total of 29 sub-categories. Development activities in either "Environmentally Sensitive Zones" or in "Special Target Zones" is prohibited by the regulations; EIAs would, therefore, not be approved. Development activities to be located in restriction zones must obtain the approval of the competent authority.

*EIA Required for Development of Media Park*

On January 3, 1998, the EPA publicly announced that a proposed Media Park must perform an environmental impact assessment (EIA) that includes details and scope, as well as the standards for collecting EIA review fees. The regulations also stipulate that an EIA shall normally be required if parts of the Media Park site are located in a sensitive zone (such as a wildlife preserve) or if development on a mountain slope exceeds a certain scale, or if the total scale of development exceeds ten hectares.

*Definition of Petrochemicals Industry Within Water Pollution Act Expanded*

On December 27, 1997, the EPA amended the *Water Pollution Control Act* to merge several industry groups into the group defined as the "petrochemicals industry." These included oil refining (formerly mineral oil refining) and other industry groups (formerly chemical engineering) that produce bromobenzyl cyanide, anilene, toluidine, phosgene, nitrobenzene, resins, plastics, plastic stabilizers, adhesives, and acetylene. The newly defined petrochemicals industry now includes oil refining, petrochemical raw materials production, and petrochemicals mid- and down-stream raw materials production.

*Enforcement Rules for Environmental Agents Control Act Submitted to Executive Yuan*

On January 9, 1998, a draft version of the *Environmental Agents Control Act Enforcement Guidelines* passed the Executive Yuan. The regulations in the draft include provisions enabling the competent authority to enforce the Act, required documents for permit application, permit registration provisions, permit modification procedures, business operations suspension or closure reporting and registration,

transfer of active ingredients, environmental agent distribution and packaging, and explanations of relevant provisions or articles.

*Standards for Fluorescent Light Eco-label Specifications Announced*

On December 31, 1998, the EPA announced the "Green Mark" specification standards for fluorescent lights. In addition to setting criteria for efficiency and life of the light tube, the standards also set restrictions on mercury content within the tube and the release of mercury into the working or living environment.