§ 382.43 Treatment of mobility aids and assistive devices.

- [ ] (a) No provision of section 201(n), 403(a), or 409 shall be construed to require on the label or labeling of a food a separate radiation disclosure statement that is more prominent than the declaration of ingredients required by section 403(i)(2).

- [ ] (b) In this section, the term 'radiation disclosure statement' means a written statement that discloses that a food has been treated with ionizing radiation.

The Department certifies that this rule, if adopted, would not have a significant economic effect on a substantial number of small entities. The basis for this statement is the probability that the overall national annual costs would not be great. Nevertheless, the Department seeks comment on whether there are impacts on small entities the Department should consider, and what those impacts are. If comments provide information that there are significant small entity impacts, the Department will provide a regulatory flexibility analysis at the final rule stage. The Department does not believe that there would be sufficient Federalism impacts to warrant the preparation of a Federalism Assessment.

List of Subjects in 14 CFR Part 382

Aviation, Individuals with disabilities.

Issued this 8th day of February, 1999, at Washington, D.C.

Rodney E. Slater,
Secretary of Transportation.

For the reasons set forth in the preamble, the Department proposes to amend 14 CFR part 382 as follows:

1. The authority citation for 14 CFR part 382 is proposed to continue to read as follows:

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 41702, 41705, and 41712.

2. In § 382.43, paragraph (b) is proposed to be revised to read as follows:

- [ ] (b) With respect to domestic transportation, the baggage liability limits of 14 CFR part 254 do not apply to liability for loss, damage, or delay concerning wheelchairs or other assistive devices.
not required to be any more prominent than the declaration of ingredients required under section 403(i)(2) of the act.

Although section 403C of the act addressed only the prominence of the radiation disclosure statements, the language in the FDA MA Joint Statement (H. Rept. 105–399, 105th Cong., 1st sess., at 98–99) directed FDA to publish for public comment proposed changes to current regulations relating to labeling of foods treated with ionizing radiation. Specifically, the Joint Statement directed that, "The public comment process should be utilized by the Secretary to provide an opportunity to comment on whether the regulations should be amended to revise the prescribed nomenclature for the labeling of irradiated foods and on whether such labeling requirements should expire at a specified date in the future." The FDA MA Joint Statement also indicated that, "The conferees intend for any required irradiation disclosure to be of a type and character such that it would not be perceived to be a warning or give rise to inappropriate consumer anxiety."

FDA notes that the law requires that irradiation labeling statements, like other labeling statements, be truthful and not misleading (403(a)(1) of the act). The agency also notes that over the years, it has received letters expressing a variety of views regarding the labeling of irradiated foods. However, at this time, FDA is not aware of a consensus regarding specific changes in the labeling of irradiated food that would best accomplish the intent of the conferees and also satisfy the requirements of the act and other agency regulations regarding the labeling of food in general. Therefore, the agency is publishing this ANPRM to request public comment on whether revisions to the current labeling requirements for irradiated foods are needed to accomplish these objectives and, if so, what form such revisions might take.

II. Background on FDA's Labeling Requirements for Irradiated Foods

As noted, over the years, FDA has issued several rules that address the labeling of irradiated foods. In the Federal Register of February 14, 1984 (49 FR 5714), FDA published a proposal to approve the use of ionizing radiation on several foods; that proposal did not include a requirement for labeling disclosing the use of ionizing radiation (Ref. 2). The agency received over 5,000 public comments on this proposal, among them no comments on the issue of labeling irradiated foods. Based on the comments and information received in response to the 1984 proposal and on further analysis, FDA published a final rule in the Federal Register of April 18, 1986 (51 FR 13376) (the 1986 rule), requiring that the labeling of retail packages and displays of irradiated food bear both the radura logo and a radiation disclosure statement (Ref. 3). The agency had concluded that labeling indicating treatment of food with radiation was necessary to prevent misbranding of irradiated foods. In response to the 1986 rule, FDA received various submissions commenting on, and objecting to, different aspects of that rule, including the labeling requirements. In the Federal Register of December 30, 1988 (53 FR 53176) (the 1988 response to objections), FDA discussed several comments and objections to the labeling requirements of the 1986 rule and concluded that the information submitted in the comments and objections provided no basis to change those requirements. Thus, the agency reaffirmed its earlier decision (Ref. 4).

In the preamble to the 1986 rule, FDA emphasized that the required label statement ("Treated with radiation" or "Treated by irradiation") could be augmented by optional statements that describe the type of radiation used or explain the reason for irradiation, provided such statements were truthful and not misleading. That is, manufacturers could include in product labeling statements such as "treated with X-radiation" or "treated with electron beam radiation," provided the more specific description was applicable. Similarly, manufacturers could include statements such as "treated with radiation to extend shelf-life" or "treated by irradiation to control pathogens," provided the more specific statement truthfully described the primary purpose of the treatment (Ref. 3).

FDA further concluded that the best way to convey to consumers the factual information that a food had been irradiated was to require labeling with the radura logo, which would indicate that the food had been processed by irradiation (but which would not be interpreted as a warning or erroneously associated with the idea that radioactivity is in the food). However, because the radura logo was not in common use at that time and, thus would not be recognized, FDA also required a disclosure statement, linked with the radura, so that consumers would understand its meaning. At that time, the agency believed that consumer awareness of irradiated foods and the meaning of the radura logo would increase as irradiated foods entered the marketplace and that, in time, a separate disclosure statement would no longer be necessary. Thus, the requirement for a separate disclosure statement initially was to expire on April 18, 1988. However, the agency subsequently extended the requirement for a disclosure statement (Ref. 5: 53 FR 12757, April 18, 1988) and later made the requirement permanent (Ref. 6: 55 FR 14415, April 18, 1990), having determined, at that time, that the public was not sufficiently familiar with the meaning of the radura logo for it to be used without a statement.

III. Other Views on Labeling Requirements for Irradiated Foods

FDA has recently received several submissions from individuals and various organizations concerning the labeling of irradiated foods. The following list summarizes these submissions.

1. "Identifying, Addressing and Overcoming Consumer Concerns." A Roundtable on Food Irradiation, convened by Public Voice for Food Health Policy, the National Food Processors Association, and the International Food Information Council, February 18 and 19, 1998 (Ref. 7). This report summarizes the discussion by invited participants regarding consumer concerns about food irradiation.

A second report:

Roundtable participants generally agreed that irradiated foods should continue to be labeled, subject to existing exceptions. However, participants were open to variations on existing label language—such as cold pasteurization (irradiation)—that would provide an informative, truthful and
non-threatening way to notify consumers that a particular product has been irradiated.

2. A letter from Senator Tom Harkin, dated January 21, 1998 (Ref. 8), and FDA’s March 27, 1998, response to Senator Harkin (Ref. 9). Senator Harkin expresses concern that the current labeling requirements “foster baseless fears,” and requests that FDA proceed quickly to “finalize a new rule providing for more appropriate labeling of foods processed with ionizing irradiation.” Senator Harkin also suggests the use of alternative terms as “cold pasteurization” or “electronic pasteurization” in any irradiation disclosure statement.

3. An excerpt from “Food Labeling for the 21st Century: A Global Agenda for Action,” A Report by the Center for Science in the Public Interest (CSPI), May 1998 (Ref. 10). This report includes a discussion of the labeling of irradiated foods and food ingredients. As part of the report’s recommendations, CSPI states that,

Any foods, or any foods containing ingredients, that have been treated by irradiation should be labeled with a written statement on the principal display panel indicating such treatment. The statement should be easy to read and placed in close proximity to the name of the food and accompanied by the international symbol. If the food is unpackaged, this information should be clearly displayed on a poster in plain view and adjacent to where the product is displayed for sale.

4. A citizen petition from the National Food Processors Association, dated May 21, 1998 (Ref. 11). This petition requests that FDA remove the labeling requirements for irradiated foods, stating, among other things, that “the required radiation statement causes consumer concern about a non-existent hazard, at the expense of discouraging a process that can mitigate very real safety hazards.”

5. A letter from Burrell J. Smittle, Florida Linear Accelerator, dated September 3, 1998 (Ref. 12), expressing the opinion that no radiation disclosure statement should be required.

6. A letter from Consumer Alert, dated September 15, 1998 (Ref. 13), stating support for the position that the radiation disclosure statement should not be more prominent than the declaration of ingredients.

7. A letter from the National Consumers League, dated September 16, 1998 (Ref. 14), expressing the opinion that the radiation disclosure statement should be more prominent than the declaration of ingredients.

8. A section of the “Codex General Standard for Labelling of Prepackaged Foods,” Codex Alimentarius

Irradiation should be labeled with a written statement on the principal display panel. The statement should be revised, and if so, what form such revisions might take. In keeping with the FDA’s Joint Statement, the agency encourages interested persons to address the following questions in their comments:

(1) Does the current radiation disclosure statement convey meaningful information to consumers in a truthful and nonmisleading manner?

(2) How do consumers perceive the radura logo as informational, as a warning, or as something else?

(3) Should any radiation disclosures in the labeling of irradiated foods be required to expire at a specified date in the future?

FDA strongly encourages the submission of the results of any consumer perception studies regarding irradiated foods and the labeling of such foods. In addition, FDA encourages those persons who suggest a revision of the radiation disclosure statement also to submit a brief discussion of the advantages of their suggestion over the current statement. Finally, FDA encourages interested persons to submit information regarding the prevalence of irradiated foods in the marketplace and information regarding the level of consumer experience and awareness of irradiated foods and irradiation processing.

The Codex Alimentarius Commission is an international consensus standards body organized under the auspices of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO).
VI. References

The following references have been placed on display in the Dockets Management Branch (address above) and may be seen by interested persons between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

3. “Irradiation in the Production, Processing, and Handling of Food; Final Rule,” FDA, Federal Register, April 18, 1986 (51 FR 13376).
4. “Irradiation in the Production, Processing, and Handling of Food; Final Rule,” FDA, Federal Register, April 18, 1986 (51 FR 13376).
14. Letter from Burrell J. Smittle, Florida Roundtable on Food Irradiation, convened by the Center for Food and Agricultural Policy, Florida Agriculture Commission, Rome, Italy.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Minerals Management Service
30 CFR Part 250
RIN 1010–AC42
Coastal Zone Consistency Review of Exploration Plans and Development and Production Plans

AGENCY: Minerals Management Service (MMS), Interior.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking.

SUMMARY: We propose to amend regulations that specify how States will review Exploration Plans (EP) and Development and Production Plans (DPP) for coastal zone consistency. The amended regulation would clarify that State coastal zone consistency review is accomplished under the authority of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) regulations. In addition when MMS prepares a DPP environmental impact statement (EIS), we propose to give the draft EIS to those States requiring the draft EIS as necessary information to conduct the DPP consistency review.

DATES: We will consider all comments received by April 19, 1999. We will begin reviewing comments then and may not fully consider comments we receive after April 19, 1999.

ADDRESSES: If you wish to comment, you may mail or hand-carry written comments (three copies) to the Minerals Management Service; Mail Stop 4024; Department of the Interior; Minerals Management Service; 381 E. Main Street; Arlington, Virginia 20243-5000. Additionally, you may submit comments, including names and any other necessary information to conduct the DPP consistency review.

Background

Section 307(c)(3)(B) of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) requires that activities described in OCS plans be conducted in a manner consistent with enforceable policies of federally approved State Coastal Management Programs (CMP). Consequently, any person submitting an OCS plan to us must attach a certificate of coastal zone consistency to the plan. Under section 307(c)(3)(B), Federal Agencies cannot grant any Federal licenses or permits for any activity in the OCS plan until:

(1) The State receives a copy of the OCS plan, the consistency certification, and any other necessary data and information; and
(2) The State concurs with, or is conclusively presumed to concur with, the consistency certification, or the Secretary of Commerce overrides the State’s consistency objection.