

## from Washington



U.S. food manufacturers will use the terms "hydrogenated" and "partially hydrogenated" to describe fats and oils so processed, the Food and Drug Administration said in late March.

Voluntary compliance is permissible now; July 1, 1979, is the mandatory date for use of the terms on ingredient labels.

In January 1976, a labeling proposal was published which would have required use of "saturated" or "partially saturated" to describe fats and oils which have been hydrogenated. Objectors noted that some unhydrogenated fats might have a higher degree of saturation than hydrogenated oils that would carry a "saturated" or "partially saturated" label. Their objections led to an interim period when either term could be used. Now the FDA has said it agrees that "hydrogenated" and "partially hydrogenated" are better.

Some persons had sought to have FDA require information about fatty acid content and cholesterol content in connection with the labeling regulation, but FDA said such information was the realm of nutritional labeling, rather than identification of ingredients. "The Commissioner is, however, separately considering ways to provide more informative food labels with respect to fatty acids and cholesterol content under 21 CFR 101.25," the comments accompanying the announcement said.

Some comments suggested consumers didn't really understand the meaning of hydrogenated or saturated. FDA agreed, but noted that hydrogenation was technically correct and less likely to lead to unwarranted assumptions by consumers about the value of the fats and oils.

The new regulation does permit group labeling: "hydrogenated vegetable oil (soybeans, cottonseed and palm oil)," rather than requiring the term hydrogenated in front of each specific oil.

Persons wishing a copy of the regulation notice may write to JAOCs News, 508 S. Sixth St., Champaign, IL 61820.

Details: *Federal Register*, Tuesday, March 28, 1978, pp. 12856-12858.

The American Soybean Association has complained about a previous FDA decision to delay mandatory source oil labeling until July 1, 1978, from the previously set deadline of Jan. 1, 1978, ASA urged that no further delays be permitted, *Food Chemical News* reported in its March 27 issue.

The Food and Drug Administration in March asked for more public comment on its proposal to establish a formal tolerance of 15 parts per billion for aflatoxin in shelled peanuts and peanut products for human food. Deadline for comments was April 17. FDA risk assessment reports are available, the notice said. Details: *Federal Register*, Friday, March 3, 1978, p. 8808.

The Food and Drug Administration has revoked its standard of identity for "sour cream dressing," deciding that consumers would not realize that sour cream dressing contains milk-derived ingredients, not sour cream. The 1974 standard had been stayed in 1975

when a salad dressing manufacturer said it was using the name. The use of the name "sour cream dressing" for that product also has been prohibited, because of the small proportion of sour cream the dressing contains. "Sour half-and-half dressing" also is to lose its standard of identity, FDA said. Details: *Federal Register*, Friday, March 17, 1978, p. 11150.

The FDA has moved to ban chlorofluorocarbon propellants in food, food additive, drug, cosmetic, and other products as of Dec. 15, 1978, for manufacturing purposes and as of April 15, 1979, for first introduction into interstate commerce. The action was taken because of reports that chlorofluorocarbons may deplete stratospheric ozone, a substance believed to screen potentially harmful ultraviolet sun rays from the earth's surface. Details: *Federal Register*, Friday, March 17, 1978, pp. 11301-11317.

The FDA is proposing to affirm potassium sorbate and sorbic acid as generally recognized as safe (GRAS) and to delete calcium and sodium sorbate from its GRAS list. The latter two ingredients were not listed by food manufacturers as being used in a survey that was part of an FDA study of sorbic acid and its salts, and thus are proposed for deletion. FDA's Select Committee on GRAS substances said that based on available evidence there is no reason to believe sorbic acid or its salts would be a hazard to humans at current use levels or reasonable future use. Calcium and sodium sorbate are proposed for deletion because no information was submitted on current food use. The proposed change would require a change in the standard of identity of some cheeses and margarine to remove calcium and sodium sorbate as acceptable preservatives. Persons wishing to comment had until May 9, 1978. Details: *Federal Register*, Friday, March 10, 1978, pp. 9823-9828.

Union Carbide has petitioned the Environmental Protection Agency to establish a tolerance of 0.05 part per million on raw cottonseed for the insecticide/nematocide 2-methyl-2-(methylsulfonyl)propanal O-[(methylamino)carbonyl]oxime, and at 0.1 part per million in cottonseed hulls, and at 0.6 part per million for soapstock from cottonseed oil refining. Proposed analytical method is by gas chromatography using a flame photometric detector and a filter specific for sulfur-containing compounds. Details: *Federal Register*, Monday, Feb. 27, 1978, p. 8029.

Nalco Chemical Co. has withdrawn its petition of July 1976 seeking approval of a copolymer condensate of ethylene oxide and propylene oxide as a component of defoaming agents intended for use in processing food. Details: *Federal Register*, Tuesday, Feb. 28, 1978, p. 8184.

The Environmental Protection Agency has issued final rules designating hazardous substances under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, published a policy statement on when and how it is to be notified if a chemical substance is found to pose a substantial risk to health or the environment, and postponed until July 15, 1978, the deadline for voluntary reporting of trade-marked products required to be listed for EPA's chemical substance inventory under the Toxic Substances Control Act.

The Water Pollution Control Act rules become effective July 12, except for vessels (which have an effective date of Sept. 11, 1978) and include a list of the 271 hazardous substances, with toxicity rankings.