

from Washington



The FDA and the Food Safety and Quality Service (FSQS) Department of Agriculture have agreed to a memorandum of understanding in an attempt to avoid duplication of food processing plant inspections. The two agencies will exchange information for scheduling inspections, and department inspectors will refer violations to appropriate offices for follow-up when conditions are under FDA/FSQS jurisdiction. More information is available from Gary Dykstra, Regulatory Operations Section (HFC-22), FDA, HEW, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857, or from the *Federal Register*, Friday, Sept. 14, 1979, p. 53578.

The EPA also is considering a rule under the Toxic Substances Control Act designed to cut test duplications. Persons subjected to repeat testing would be reimbursed for laboratory costs. For more information, contact Industry Assistant Office, Office of Toxic Substances (TS-799), EPA, 401 M St. SW, Washington, DC 20460, or see the *Federal Register*, Tuesday, Sept. 18, 1979, p. 54284.

The FDA has ruled on the safety of propyl gallate used to retard rancidity. A cereal manufacturer had requested the generally recognized as safe (GRAS) level be established at 50 parts per million (ppm) in human foods, regardless of fat or oil content in the food. Because the FDA considers the data insufficient to support the potentially vast expansion of propyl gallate consumption (particularly in infants 0-5 months of age), existing regulations have been amended to permit the propyl gallate level at only 0.02 percent of the total fat or oil content, including the essential (volatile) oil content, of the food. For further information, contact Corbin I. Miles, Bureau of Foods (HFF-335), FDA, HEW, 200 C St. SW, Washington, DC 20204, or see the *Federal Register*, Tuesday, Sept. 11, 1979, p. 52825.

The U.S. Borax Research Corp. has proposed EPA tolerance for residues of the herbicide proflaminate on or in cottonseed, soybean and other commodity crops. Comments may be addressed to the Product Manager (PM) 23, Rm. E-351, Registration Division (TS-767), Office of Pesticide Programs, EPA, 401 M St. SW, Washington, DC 20460. Details are in the *Federal Register*, Thursday, Sept. 13, 1979, p. 53307.

The Secretary of Agriculture is considering a price support proposal for the 1980 flaxseed crop. Specifications for price support will be part of the amended Agricultural Act of 1949. For further information, contact Mr. Harry A. Sullivan, ASCS, USDA, Room 3630, South Bldg., PO Box 2415, Washington, DC 20031, or see the *Federal Register*, Friday, Sept. 14, 1979, p. 53525.

Rubber articles containing 4-(diiodomethylsulfonyl) toluene are safe as components of food manufacturing equipment, the FDA says. This final rule answers a petition filed by Abbott Laboratories and includes parts that will contact food products repeatedly. For more information, contact Gerard L. McCowin, Bureau of Foods (HFF-334), FDA, HEW, 200 C St. SW, Washington, DC 20204, or see the *Federal Register*, Friday, Sept. 7, 1979, p. 52189.

The Dow Chemical Company has proposed FDA approval for the use of 2-sulfoethyl methacrylate in copolymers used as adhesives for food packaging. This petition is required under food-contact regulations and is exempt from an environmental impact statement. Comments may be addressed to Gerard L. McCowin, Bureau of Foods (HFF-334), FDA, HEW, 200 C St. SW, Washington, DC 20204. Details are in the *Federal Register*, Friday, Sept. 7, 1979, p. 52339.

Pennwalt Corp. has filed a petition proposing the FDA approve the safe use of dodecylbenzene sulfonic acid and isopropyl alcohol as components of sanitizing solutions for use on food processing equipment. Further information is available from the Hearing Clerk (HFA-305), FDA, Rm. 4-65, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857, or from the *Federal Register*, Friday, Aug. 24, 1979, p. 49792.

The Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service has announced the rate of penalty application to the 1979 crop of extra long staple cotton, in agreement with the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938. Also, part of the Title VI provision is restated eliminating the recordkeeping requirement for upland cotton. For more information, contact Charles Riley, Production Adjustment Division, ASCS, USDA, 3644 South Building, PO Box 2415, Washington, DC 20013, or see the *Federal Register*, Friday, Aug. 31, 1979, p. 51186.

The FDA had amended the food additive regulations at the request of the Hercules Corp. to include N-methyldiallylamine hydrochloride polymer as a safe constituent in food packaging products. This agent's purpose is to improve the wet strength of paper and paperboard. Comment to Gerard L. McCowin, Bureau of Foods (HFF-334), FDA, HEW, 200 C St. SW, Washington, DC 20204, or more information is in the *Federal Register*, Friday, Aug. 31, 1979, p. 51217.

The FDA has proposed amending the specifications for Orange Dye No. 4 to include a tolerance level for 4,4'-(diazomino)-dibenzene sulfonic acid (DAADBSA). This proposal would specify a tolerance level of 0.1 percent for DAADBSA — information which was omitted in existing regulations. Written comments may be directed to the Hearing Clerk (HFA-305), FDA, Rm. 4-65, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857. Additional information is in the *Federal Register*, Tuesday, Aug. 28, 1979, p. 50360.

Kraft Inc. was granted an extended comment period for a proposal affirming hydrogen peroxide as generally recognized as safe (GRAS) for use in whey products and cheese. The extended period ended Sept. 20, but information is still available from Corbin I. Miles, Bureau of Foods (HFF-305), FDA, Rm. 4-65, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857, or see the *Federal Register*, Tuesday, Aug. 28, 1979, p. 50360.

AOCS members to participate in Taiwan seminar

Five AOCS members will be part of the "International Symposium on Recent Advances in Food Science and Technology" to be held Jan. 9-11, 1980, to mark the groundbreaking of a new food science building at the National Taiwan University.

Drs. Stephen S. Chang and Steve Chen will serve as chairmen of the symposium on oils, fats and oilseeds. It will be one of six symposia during the event. Speakers will include George C. Cavanagh, "Solvent Refining of Vegetable Oils;" Arnold M. Gavin, "Physical Refining of Vegetable Oils;" and Dr. Rex J. Sims, "Formulations and Manufacturing of Food Products with Fats and Oils." Other speakers will include leading food scientists from Taiwan. The U.S. speakers will spend three days after the meeting visiting with people in the Taiwan fats and oils industry.

Further information is available from Dr. Cho C. Tsen, Department of Grain Science and Industry, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS 66506 USA (tele: 913-532-6161), or Dr. Wei-Hsiend Chang, Graduate Institute of Food Science and Technology, National Taiwan University, Taipei, Taiwan, R.O.C.