

from Washington



The third edition of the *Food Chemicals Codex* is available for public review until January 31, 1980. The Codex is an FDA-recognized list of food ingredients that are generally recognized as safe (GRAS) and is prepared by the National Academy of Sciences/National Research Council under contract with the FDA. For a copy of the Codex and more information, contact Corbin I. Miles, Bureau of Foods (HFF-335), FDA, HEW, 200 C St. SW, Washington, DC 20204 (tele: 202-472-4750). Details are in the *Federal Register*, Friday, Nov. 2, 1979, p. 63155.

The National Institute of Health Carcinogenesis Testing Program says its tests indicate 4,4-methylenebis(N,N-dimethyl) benzenamine is carcinogenic in Fischer 344 rats and in female B6C3F1 mice. The chemical is used primarily as an intermediate in the manufacture of certain dyes. For copies of the report, contact the Office of Cancer Communications, National Cancer Institute, Bldg. 31, Room 10A21, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD 20205. From the *Federal Register*, Tuesday, Oct. 2, 1979, p. 56744.

The EPA has issued an experimental use permit including tolerance for oxyfluorfen herbicide in cottonseed oil. This permit was requested by the Rohm & Haas Co. and limits oxyfluorfen residues to 0.2 part per million (ppm). LD₅₀ data and other information is in the *Federal Register*, Monday Oct. 15, 1979, p. 59231. Rohm & Haas has been granted further amendments establishing tolerances for oxyfluorfen in or on the raw agricultural commodities cottonseed and certain meats, not to exceed 0.05 ppm. For details, contact Richard Mountfort, Acting Product Manager 25, Registration Division (TS-767), Office of Pesticide Programs, East Tower, 401 M St. SW, Washington, DC 20460, or see the *Federal Register*, Monday, Oct. 15, 1979, p. 59287.

Nor-Am Agricultural Products Inc. has been granted EPA approval for tolerances of the herbicide Thidiazuron in or on cottonseed, cottonseed hulls, and animal by-products. This temporary permit is for herbicide evaluation of cotton defoliation. More information is available from the Product Manager (PM-23), Room E-351, Office of Pesticide Programs, EPA, 401 M St. SW, Washington, DC 20460, or see the *Federal Register*, Monday, Sept. 17, 1979, p. 53766.

Borg-Warner Chemicals has asked the EPA to approve the use of cyclic neopentetetrayl bis(octadecyl)phosphite containing triisopropanolamine in food packaging polymers. This chemical functions as an antioxidant and/or stabilizer. For more information, contact Gerad McCowin, Bureau of Foods (HFF-334), FDA, HEW, 200 C St. SW, Washington, DC 20204, or see the *Federal Register*, Tuesday, Oct. 2, 1979, p. 56743.

H&C Industries Inc. has asked EPA to approve use of rice bran wax as a release agent during the manufacture of plastic packaging intended for food contact. This particular additive is used in packaging for dry foods. Further information is available from Gerad McCowin, Bureau of Foods, (HFF-334), FDA, HEW, 200 C St. SW, Washington, DC 20204, or from the *Federal Register*, Tuesday, Oct. 2, 1979, p. 56744.

Monsanto has withdrawn without prejudice a proposal to permit the use of phenol-formaldehyde resins, chemically modified with cyanoguanidine and urea, in the

manufacture of resin-bonded glass fiber filters used in food filtering. Details may be obtained from Gerad McCowin, Bureau of Foods (HFF-334), FDA, HEW, 200 C St. SW, Washington, DC 20204, or see the *Federal Register*, Tuesday, Oct. 2, 1979, p. 56744.

Tenneco Chemicals has requested EPA approval for the use of an aqueous solution containing 5-hydroxymethoxymethyl-1-aza-3,7-dioxabicyclo (3.3.0) octane as a preservative used on food packaging, transporting and holding containers. Comments may be directed to Gerad McCowin, Bureau of Foods (HFF-334), FDA, HEW, 200 C St. SW, Washington, DC 20204. Details are in the *Federal Register*, Tuesday, Oct. 2, 1979, p. 56744.

New FDA, USDA and FTC proposals to change labeling regulations for fats and oils (and salt and sugar) content in foods were expected to be published by the end of the year, an FDA spokeswoman said in October. Publication in the *Federal Register* was awaiting interagency coordination of what the FDA employee termed "very complex regulations dealing with food products individually." The proposal, if approved, would extend government regulation into new areas, the spokeswoman said. One proposal, for example, would involve limiting the amount of fat in processed meats.

The FDA plans to make up to \$250,000 available under a pilot program to pay expenses of selected consumers, small businesses and public interest groups that wish to participate in regulatory proceedings, but otherwise could not afford to participate. It is similar to pilot programs of other federal agencies. Applications and further information are available from Ronald Wylie, Office of Consumer Affairs (HF-70), FDA, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857.

An appeals court judge has excluded cottonseed oil mills and other nontextile operations from OSHA's standard setting limits for workers' exposure to cotton dust. The judge said he would consider reversing his decision if OSHA can show it would be economically feasible for the excluded firms to meet the standards. OSHA estimates it will cost textile firms \$625 million in capital outlay and \$84 million in annual operating costs to comply with the standards by the deadline of 1982. Cotton dust, OSHA says, may cause lung damage. ●

Fats and oils usage reported

Preliminary statistics from the 1977 Census of Manufacturers estimate that 1,387.7 million pounds of fats and oils were consumed that year by the industries that produce frozen fruits and vegetables; confectionery, chocolate and cocoa products; blended and prepared flour; flour and other grain mill products; and miscellaneous food preparations.

The report on miscellaneous food preparations said 1977 peanut butter production totaled 595.3 million pounds, compared to 561 million pounds in 1972 when the previous census was taken. The total for 1977 included 541.8 million pounds in consumer-size packages, with the rest shipped in bulk and commercial containers. Total value of 1977 peanut butter manufacture was listed at \$424.2 in 1977 compared to \$240.4 million in 1972. Dollar amounts are not adjusted for inflation.

The frozen fruits and vegetables industry used 258.9 million pounds of fats and oils; the confectionery chocolate and cocoa products industry used 144.9 million pounds of fats and oils; the blended and prepared flour industry used 196.8 million pounds; the flour and other grain mill products industry used 56 million pounds; and the miscellaneous food preparations industry used 731.2 million pounds. ●