
From Washington

EPA seeks to control volatile organic leaks

The federal Environmental Protection Agency has published its proposed rules for controlling leaks of volatile organic compounds in the synthetic organic chemicals manufacturing industry. Basically, the regulations require a leak detection and repair program and elimination of leaks during normal operation. Details: *Federal Register*, Monday, Jan. 5, 1980, p. 1135.

Polysorbate 60, 80 limitations lifted

The federal Food and Drug Administration has removed previous limitations regarding foods in which shortenings and edible oils treated with polysorbate 60 and polysorbate 80 may be used. The revisions permit uses of either (along, or in combination with the other) in shortenings and edible oils provided use does not conflict with standards of identity for foods in which the shortenings and edible oils are to be used. Details: *Federal Register*, Tuesday, Jan. 27, 1981, p. 8465.

Pesticide carbaryl avoids EPA hurdle

The Environmental Protection Agency has decided that pesticides containing carbaryl will be considered for use in the U.S. according to EPA normal procedures. The agency said in mid-December that it would not issue a "rebuttable presumption against registration" on carbaryl. Carbaryl can be used on soybeans, peanuts and cotton, along with many other crops. Details: *Federal Register*, Friday, Dec. 12, 1980, p. 81869.

Tolerance proposed for peanut herbicide

The federal Environmental Protection Agency has published a proposed rule establishing tolerances in peanuts, peanut forage, peanut hay and peanut hulls for the herbicide fluchloralin (N-(2-chloroethyl)-a,a,a-trifluoro-2,6-dinitro-N-propyl-p-toluidine). Levels would be .05 parts per million in peanuts, .05 ppm for forage and hay, and .1 ppm for peanut hulls. Comments were due to EPA in January. *Federal Register*, Wednesday, Dec. 24, 1980, p. 85102.

U.S. oilseed export forecast: higher value, lower volume

Value of U.S. oilseed and oilseed product exports for fiscal year 1981 were forecast at \$12.2 billion compared to approximately \$10 billion during fiscal year 1980. Oilseed and oilseed product exports for 1981 were forecast at approximately 33 million metric tons (MT) for 1981, compared to approximately 35 million MT during 1979. The tonnage figure includes forecasts for soybeans, soybean meal, soybean oil, other oilcake and meal, other vegetable oils and sunflower seed. The forecasts came from the USDA's Thomas R. Saylor, associate administrator of the Foreign Agriculture Service, during the USDA 1981 Outlook Conference last November.

Oil crops harvest smallest since 1976

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's 1980 summary of crop production says the oil crop production index was 171 (1967=100), the smallest since 1976 when the index stood at 132. The intervening years: 1977 = 175; 1978 = 182; and 1979 = 219. Soybean production totaled 1.8 billion bushels (49.5 million MT); flaxseed, 8.1 million bushels (206,000 MT); peanuts, 2.3 billion bushels (1.0 million MT); sunflowers, 3.8 billion bushels (1.7 million MT); and cottonseed, 4.4 million tons (4.0 million MT).

No price support for 1980 sunflower

The Commodity Credit Corporation has withdrawn an earlier proposal to establish a price support level for 1980 crop sunflower. Market

prices, proposed support levels and comments received led to the decision, CCC said in the Jan. 12, 1981, *Federal Register*.

Shelled peanuts standards suggested

The Food Safety and Quality Service was seeking comments during February on proposed federal standards for grades of shelled peanuts. The original proposals as published in December 1979 have been revised, generally to reduce the oversize and undersize tolerances. The "export" grade label would be eliminated, but exporters could still offer peanuts on basis of the number of kernels per pound or per ounce. The publication was a "solicitation of information," indicating FSQS is seeking further comments before proposing any final standards. Details: *Federal Register*, Tuesday, Feb. 3, 1981.

Infant formula QC rules proposed

The federal Department of Health and Human Services has published its proposed rules on quality control procedures for infant formula producers. The procedures would take effect six months (180 days) after a final rule is published. Comments on the proposed rule were sought by March 21. Details: *Federal Register*, Tuesday, Dec. 30, 1980, p. 86362.

Cotton dust respirator rules to be enforced

The federal Department of Labor published a notice in the *Federal Register* on Dec. 30 (p. 85736) saying it would enforce use of respirators by workers exposed to cotton dust. The agency's Occupational Safety and Health Administration previously had set levels of exposure that would require use of respirators, but court action had delayed enforcement. That court case affirmed use of the cotton dust standards except as they applied to cottonseed oil mills. Workers in the textile industry are those primarily affected by the announcement that the standards will be enforced.

Sunflower pesticide residue proposed

FMC Corporation's Agricultural Chemical group has asked the federal Environmental Protection Agency to establish residue levels for the insecticide carbofuran and its metabolites at 0.2 parts per million in sunflower oil and 1.0 parts per million in sunflower seed hulls and sunflower seed meal. Details: *Federal Register*, Thursday, Dec. 1, 1980, p. 81650.

