

From Washington

OSHA grain handling rules won't apply to extraction units

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration's proposed requirements for controlling fires, grain-dust explosions and other safety hazards at grain-handling facilities would not apply to vegetable-oil extraction plants, although they would apply to grain elevators that are part of such facilities. Details: *Federal Register*, Friday, Jan. 6, 1984, pp. 996-1014.

EPA proposes new VOC emission limits

The Environmental Protection Agency has proposed standards limiting emissions of volatile organic compounds from new, modified and reconstructed synthetic organic chemical manufacturing industry distillation facilities. Background information, EPA Publication No. 450/3-83-005a, may be obtained from the U.S. EPA Library (MD-35), Research Triangle Park, NC 27711. Details: *Federal Register*, Friday, Dec. 30, 1983, pp. 57538-57561.

Deadline changed for vegetable-protein rules

USDA's Food and Nutrition Service has delayed implementing regulations for vegetable-protein products in child nutrition programs from Feb. 7, 1984, to Sept. 1, 1984. The agency took the action to allow manufacturers and food-service authorities time to make product formulation changes. Details: *Federal Register*, Thursday, Dec. 29, 1984, p. 57259.

GRAS status affirmed, proposed

The Food and Drug Administration has affirmed the following as generally recognized as safe (GRAS) as direct food ingredients: candelilla wax; stearic acid and calcium stearate; sodium tartate as an emulsifier and pH control agent in cheeses, fats, oils, jams and jellies. Also, FDA has proposed GRAS affirmation for hydrogen peroxide; for enzymatically hydrolyzed casein and certain protein hydrolysates including those from such plant-protein sources as soybeans, wheat, corn, rice, peanuts and yeasts. Details: *Federal Register*, Thursday, Nov. 10, 1983, pp. 51616-51617; Friday, Nov. 18, 1983, pp. 52444-52445; *Food Chemical News*, Nov. 21, 1983, p. 8; *Federal Register*, Thursday, Nov. 17, 1983, pp. 52323-52333; Dec. 8, 1983, pp. 54990-54993. In addition, FDA has affirmed the GRAS status of lecithin and carnauba wax, effective Dec. 7, 1983. Details: *Federal Register*, Monday, Nov. 7, 1983, pp. 51146-51151.

EPA approves, proposes ag chemical tolerances

The Environmental Protection Agency has established a tolerance of 0.05 parts per million for the herbicide ethalfluralin on soybeans, and a tolerance exemption for primary *n*-alkylamines, where the alkyl group (C₈-C₁₈) is derived from coconut, cottonseed, soy or tallow acids, when used as surfactants in pesticides. Also, EPA has proposed a tolerance exemption for methyl poly(oxyethylene) alkyl ammonium chloride, where the poly(oxyethylene) content is 3-15 moles and the alkyl group is derived from coconut, cottonseed, soy or tallow acids, as a surfactant in pesticides. Details: *Federal Register*, Jan. 4, 1984, pp. 390-391; Nov. 23, 1983, pp. 52912-52913; Dec. 14, 1983, pp. 55584-55585; *Food Chemical News*, Dec. 19, 1983, p. 30.

Method sought to detect nonmeat protein ingredients

USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service officials in December asked the Agricultural Research Service to give priority to developing analytical procedures for detecting and measuring nonmeat proteins in processed meat products. Recent attention to nonmeat proteins has included a USDA proposal not to require the use of titanium dioxide as a tracer for isolated soy protein in meat or poultry products. Details: *Food Chemical News*, Dec. 21, 1983, pp. 31-32.