

From Washington

FDA wants fats, oils listed in descending order

FDA has issued an advisory opinion that ingredient declarations for vegetable shortenings, cooking oils and salad oils composed entirely or primarily of fats and oils must identify all of the fats and oils actually present in descending order of predominance, rather than using "and/or" or "contains one or more of the following" listings for less-than-predominant fats and oils. Kraft Inc. had requested an advisory opinion from FDA last winter. The response, offered by FDA Associate Commissioner for Regulatory Affairs Joseph P. Hile in a July 31 letter, noted that because products in which fats, oils or blends are the predominant or sole ingredients are frequently valued by the consumer in relation to the amount of certain fats or oils in the products, "a high potential for economic deception would exist if such products were not required to list fat and oil ingredients in the order of predominance." Details: *Food Chemical News*, Aug. 19, 1985, pp. 21-22.

Cholesterol labeling proposal to be released in November

The Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) Regulatory Program report to Congress in August said FDA is readying a proposal on cholesterol labeling for publication in November. OMB noted that current regulations prohibit cholesterol claims on food labels except for a quantitative statement as a part of the nutrition label. FDA is considering several options to remove present restrictions, including allowing the industry voluntarily to provide consumers with cholesterol and fatty acid information. If so, food manufacturers choosing to use such terms as cholesterol free, low cholesterol and reduced cholesterol could do so provided they included full nutrition labeling. Another option would define low cholesterol as 0 to 20 mg of cholesterol per serving. For more information on FDA's cholesterol labeling proposals, contact F. Edward Scarbrough, Chief, Regulatory Affairs Staff, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, FDA, 200 C St. S.W., Washington, DC 20204, telephone 202-245-3117. Details: *Food Chemical News*, Aug. 12, 1985, pp. 36-37; *Nutrition Week*, Aug. 29, 1985, pp. 4-5. In addition, OMB predicted that the Department of Health and Human Services in September would publish a notice announcing steps to permit truthful and non-misleading health claims on food labels.

FDA permanently lists Yellow 5, provisionally extends 9 colors

The Food and Drug Administration has decided to permanently list FD&C Yellow No. 5 for use in externally applied drugs and in cosmetics generally, effective Oct. 7, 1985. In addition, FDA has proposed an amended color additive order for food use of the color to limit the presence of carcinogenic constituents. At the same time, FDA extended the provisional listings of Yellow 5 for use in coloring cosmetics generally and externally applied drugs, and of its lakes for use in coloring food and ingested drugs, from Sept. 3, 1985 until Nov. 5, 1985, to allow time for any objections to the new clearances. In the same issue of the *Federal Register*, FDA extended the provisional listings of FD&C Red 3 and its lakes until Sept. 3, 1986; D&C Reds 8, 9, 19 and 37, D&C Orange 17 and FD&C Yellow 6 to June 6, 1986; and D&C Reds 33 and 36 to March 3, 1987. These nine colors previously had been provisionally listed until Sept. 3, 1985. Details: *Federal Register*, Sept. 4, 1985, pp. 35774-35790, pp. 35841-35843.

Soybean price support stays at \$5.02 per bushel

USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation in September set the final loan and purchase rate for 1985 crop soybeans at \$5.02 per bushel, the statutory minimum. Details: *Federal Register*, Sept. 6, 1985, p. 36458.

From Washington

GRAS petition filed for enzyme-modified lecithin

Kyowa Hakko Kogyo Co. Ltd. of Tokyo, Japan, has filed a petition with FDA to request Generally Recognized as Safe (GRAS) status for enzyme-modified lecithin as a direct food ingredient. Details: *Federal Register*, Aug. 27, 1985, pp. 34758-34759.

Castor oil investigation to be settled in December

The U.S. International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce, in August announced it would make a ruling no later than Dec. 14, 1986 in its antidumping investigation concerning hydrogenated castor oil and 12-hydroxystearic acid imported from Brazil. In an August 1 notice, the International Trade Administration preliminarily determined that the two products were being or were likely to be sold in the U.S. at less than fair value. A public hearing on the matter was set for October 25 in Washington. Details: *Federal Register*, Aug. 29, 1985, p. 35110.

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