

# from Washington



*Food Chemical News* said in its May 22 edition that the Codex Alimentarius Commission has decided to limit the scope of its committee on methods of analysis and sampling. The committee would coordinate, approve, and review procedures developed by commodity committees, but would not develop its own testing methods.

A report from the National Center for Health Statistics indicates cholesterol-lowering diet recommendations of medical groups have not led to decreased mean cholesterol levels or reduced the prevalence of high cholesterol levels for men. *Food Chemicals News* reported the summary in its May 22 edition. The report is entitled "Total Serum Cholesterol Levels of Adults 18-74 Years," Series 11, Number 205, Vital and Health Statistics.

The Codex Alimentarius Commission has directed in committee on fats and oils to reconsider proposals on low-fat margarine products. There was a great deal of discussion in the committee in wording the report that went to the full commission, which apparently decided to hold off action until a better consensus can be achieved.

USDA has proposed permitting the use of TBHQ as an antioxidant in certain meat and poultry products. TBHQ already has FDA approval as an antioxidant in some foods. Details: *Federal Register*, Tuesday, May 9, 1978, p. 19858.

The Food and Drug Administration, acting on a petition filed by DeLaval Separator Co., has approved sodium lauryl sulfate for use as a wetting agent in the partition of high and low melting fractions of crude vegetable oils and animal fats, at a level not to exceed 10 ppm. Details: *Federal Register*, Tuesday, May 2, 1978, p. 18668.

The Environmental Protection Agency is accepting comments until July 21, 1978, on the second report of the Interagency Testing Committee on priority chemicals for testing. The new list adds four individual substances and four categories of substances to the previous list. The new substances and categories are: acrylamide, aryl phosphates, chlorinated naphthalenes, dichloromethane, halogenated alkyl epoxides, polychlorinated terphenyls, pyridine, and 1,1,1-trichloroethane. Details: *Federal Register*, Wednesday, April 19, 1978, p. 16884.

The Food and Drug Administration's Working Group on FD&C Red No. 40, a popular coloring agent, says its work so far shows no evidence that the substance is carcinogenic through tumor incidence or acceleration. That statement was in a second interim report with a final report expected after all testing has been complete. Details: *Federal Register*, Friday, April 28, 1978, p. 18528.

FDA has affirmed caprylic acid, a flavoring agent, as generally recognized as safe as a direct food additive. Details: *Federal Register*, Tuesday, May 9, 1978, p. 19843.

The FDA is updating its standards of identity for bakery products. As part of that effort, FDA has set July 25, 1978, as final date for comments on a proposal to remove limits on mono- and diglycerides of fat-forming fatty acids, diacetyl tartaric acid esters of mono- and diglycerides of fat-forming fatty acids, and diesters of fat-forming fatty acids and other ingredients performing similar functions. The FDA says limits are not needed because technical fac-

tors make it unlikely the ingredients would be used in excessive amounts. Details: *Federal Register*, Friday, May 26, 1978, p. 22728. As another part of that effort, FDA has begun steps to hold a formal evidentiary public rule-making hearing on four other unresolved issues in bakery standards of identity. One is an American Bakers Association proposal to allow use of artificially colored butter or margarine in standardized bakery products. The prehearing conference was scheduled for late June; no specific date had been set for the formal hearing. Details: *Federal Register*, Friday, May 26, 1978, p. 22785.

The FDA has added 71 flavoring substances to its GRAS list with a bulk labeling requirement date of July 1, 1979. The flavors are those on the Flavor and Extract Manufacturers Association Grasp List No. 11 published in the February 1978 issue of *Food Technology*. Details: *Federal Register*, Friday, May 26, 1978, p. 22784.

The Environmental Protection Agency has received several petitions affecting permissible residues on oilseed crops. The EPA extended the expiration date for food and feed additives regulations on the insecticide O-ethyl O-(4-methylthio)-phenyl S-propyl phosphorodithioate on cotton plants. The effect is to permit marketing of by-products derived from treated cottonseed while further studies are made. The new expiration date will be June 3, 1979. Details: *Federal Register*, Wednesday, May 24, 1978, p. 22176. EPA also extended the temporary tolerance deadline on raw agricultural commodities of cottonseed, fat, and meat by-products of cattle and other animals, and in eggs and milk. Details: *Federal Register*, May 24, 1978, p. 22241. EPA also published a final rule on tolerances for residues of dalapon on a variety of crops (*Federal Register*, Thursday, May 25, 1978, p. 22359).

Ciba-Geigy Corp. in Greensboro, NC, has filed a petition affecting use of the insecticides O-(4-bromo-2-chlorophenyl) O-ethyl S-propyl phosphorothiate in an experimental program on growing cotton. Tolerance levels would be 9.0 parts per million in soapstock hulls and 3.0 ppm in cottonseed hulls. Ciba-Geigy is now asking that those tolerance levels be raised to 15 ppm for soapstock hulls and 6 ppm for cottonseed hulls. Details: *Federal Register*, Friday, May 26, 1978, p. 22775.

Mobay Chemical Corp. of Kansas City, MO, has filed a petition with the federal EPA to set a tolerance of 1.0 ppm in cottonseed oil and in cottonseed hulls for the insecticide O-ethyl O-[4-(methylthio)-phenyl] S-propyl phosphorodithioate and its cholinesterase-inhibiting metabolites. Details: *Federal Register*, Wednesday, May 3, 1978, p. 19077.

Shell Chemical Co. has filed a petition with EPA to establish a tolerance for residues of the insecticide Cyano(3-phenoxyphenyl)methyl-4-chloro-alpha-(1-methylethyl)-benzeneacetate in or on the raw agricultural commodities cottonseed at 0.2 ppm and fat of milk and fat of livestock at 0.02 ppm. Details: *Federal Register*, Thursday, May 4, 1978, p. 19290.

The Environmental Protection Administration has approved exempting the pesticide gossypure from the requirement of a tolerance limitation on cottonseed. Gossypure odor attracts male pink bollworms, interrupting the insects' reproductive cycle. The EPA says tests showed it is unlikely any residue will remain on cottonseed. Testing showed toxic effects only at high usage levels, EPA said. Details: *Federal Register*, Monday, May 15, 1978, p. 20802. ●