

From Washington

Codex to seek single standard for all vegetable proteins

The Codex Alimentarius Commission has recommended that there should be one general standard covering vegetable protein products from all sources. Meanwhile, the Grocery Manufacturers of America have asked the Food and Drug Administration to establish sulfite use levels for vegetable protein products in the Generally Recognized as Safe (GRAS) affirmation of potassium bisulfite, sodium bisulfite, potassium sulfite, sodium sulfite and sulfur dioxide. Asking for a limit of 40 parts per million, GMA said the primary use of sulfiting agents in vegetable protein products is to provide microbiological control during processing. Details: *Food Chemical News*, Aug. 8, 1983, pp. 4-5; Aug. 22, 1983, p. 47.

FDA approves sucrose esters in specific application

The Food and Drug Administration has amended food additive regulations to permit the use of sucrose fatty acid esters as texturizers in biscuit mixes and as stabilizers and emulsifiers in baked goods, baking mixes, dairy product analogs, frozen dairy desserts and mixes. Also, the agency has expanded clearance of the fatty acid esters as components of protective coatings for fruits to include pineapples. Sucrose fatty acid esters, the mono-, di- and triesters of sucrose with fatty acids, are derived from sucrose and edible tallow or hydrogenated edible tallow. The action was requested by Nebraska's Department of Economic Development. Details: *Federal Register*, Tuesday, Aug. 23, 1983, pp. 38225-38227; *Food Chemical News*, Aug. 29, 1983, p. 25.

Committee questions data from oil gavage testing

A Nutrition Foundation ad hoc working group has questioned the accuracy and validity of data derived from oil gavage testing "since the vehicle itself has been shown to change the susceptibility of the animals to cancer-inducing agents." The group said there is evidence that physiological, biochemical and nutritional changes may be induced in rodents when vegetable oils, particularly corn oil, are used to administer the test substances and that the oils may promote tumor growth. "The oil gavage protocol, while used for years in toxicology, has not been properly evaluated as a toxicological technique," the group added. The National Toxicological Program has undertaken its own review of the technique due to a high incidence of proliferative exocrine pancreatic lesions in corn oil gavage control animals. Details: *Food Chemical News*, Aug. 8, 1983, pp. 20-21.

EPA exempts pheromones from FIFRA regulations

The Environmental Protection Agency has exempted all pheromones and identical or substantially similar compounds for use in pheromone traps, as well as the traps, from regulation under the federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act. Also, EPA has established an interim feed additive regulation to permit the combined residues of the insecticide thiodicarb and its metabolite methomyl at 0.8 parts per million (ppm) in cottonseed hulls and 0.4 ppm in soybean hulls. The agency renewed temporary tolerances for the combined residues at 0.4 ppm in cottonseed and 0.1 ppm in soybeans. Details: *Federal Register*, Wednesday, Sept. 7, 1983, pp. 40369-40370, 40438.