

From Washington

Japan postpones BHA ban pending FAO/WHO report

Japanese officials January 31 postponed a ban on butylated hydroxyanisole (BHA) in food products scheduled for February 1 and said they would not take any action until the FAO/WHO Joint Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA) determines if the preservative is carcinogenic. JECFA is slated to meet April 11-20 in Geneva. At a January meeting in Washington, a four-nation working group of scientists from Japan, the United States, Great Britain and Canada recommended continued use of BHA until further study could be done. The group said the antioxidant presents no hazard and may, in fact, prevent cancer. Details: *Food Chemical News*, Jan. 10, 1983, p. 2; Jan. 24, 1983, pp. 51-52; Jan. 31, 1983, p. 2; Feb. 7, 1983, p. 30.

CCC expects peanut oil, meal prices to increase

Projecting 1983 peanut quota support to remain the same as 1982, the Commodity Credit Corporation said it expects 1983/84 U.S. peanut crushing supplies to be 2% lower than in 1982/83, raising prices to about 30 cents a pound for oil and \$150 per ton for meal during the 1983/84 marketing year. Details: *Federal Register*, Tuesday, Jan. 25, 1983, pp. 3389-3391.

Stearic acid, calcium stearate approved for GRAS status

The Food and Drug Administration has proposed affirming the Generally Recognized as Safe (GRAS) status of stearic acid as a flavoring agent and adjuvant in foods and of calcium stearate as a flavoring agent and adjuvant, lubricant and release agent, and stabilizer and thickener in foods. Details: *Federal Register*, Tuesday, Feb. 1, 1983, pp. 4486-4490; *Food Chemical News*, Feb. 7, 1983, pp. 14-16. Also, FDA has proposed GRAS affirmation for citric acid and certain citrates, including calcium citrate, isopropyl citrate and stearyl citrate, as direct food ingredients. Details: *Food Chemical News*, Jan. 10, 1983, pp. 12-16; *Federal Register*, Friday, Jan. 7, 1983, pp. 834-839.

USDA liberalizes school lunch rules on vegetable protein

USDA's Food and Nutrition Service in January announced provisions allowing greater flexibility in using vegetable protein products in the National School Lunch Program, the Summer Food Service Program for Children and the Child Care Food Program. The action does not increase the amount of vegetable protein products that may be substituted for meat. Details: *Federal Register*, Friday, Jan. 7, 1983, pp. 775-782.

EPA issues regulations on crop tolerances

An Environmental Protection Agency rule exempts methyl bis (2-hydroxyethyl)alkyl ammonium chloride from a tolerance requirement where the carbon chain (C₈-C₁₈) is derived from coconut, cottonseed, soy or tallow acids, as a surfactant in pesticide formulations applied to growing crops. Details: *Federal Register*, Jan. 5, 1983, pp. 411-412; *Food Chemical News*, Jan. 10, 1983, p. 2. Another EPA rule establishes residue tolerances of the fungicide metalaxyl and its metabolites at 0.1 part per million (ppm) in cottonseed and peanuts. Details: *Federal Register*, Wednesday, Jan. 26, 1983, pp. 3599-3600.