31-6 FOOD CHEMICAL NEWS
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CANADIANS ARE CONSIDERING A CHANGE IN TOLERANCE FOR PCB'S IN FISH

Canadian Health Protection Branch officials informed the Food and Drug Administration last week of plans to reduce tolerances for polychlorinated biphenyls in fish from 5 to 2 p.p.m.

Canadian scientists reportedly have become concerned over new data on toxicity in primates as well as reports of carcinogenicity in rats. New scientific data on PCBs are expected to be reported at a symposium in Chicago Nov. 19-21 (See FOOD CHEMICAL NEWS, Oct. 13, Page 9). FDA is not expected to follow the Canadian action, which is aimed chiefly at making sure that smelts and eels are not contaminated.

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A change in FDA's tolerances for fish, which would affect a far wider number of fresh water and ocean fish, would require formal rule-making changes of the §406 regulations under which the unavoidable tolerances for PCBs have been set for fish and other products.

FDA is expected to take a more cautious look at the need for a change in the tolerance, and consult with representatives of National Marine Fisheries Service, among others, before taking action.

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