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Chemical Ban Affects Ralston Turkey Plant

WASHINGTON, July 7 (UPI) — The Food and Drug Administration Friday ordered restrictions on a widely used group of industrial chemicals to help keep them out of food.

The agency banned the industrial use of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) in plants where food, animal feed and food packaging materials are made, handled or stored.

PCBs, in use since 1929 for products, such as paint, plastic, rubber and ink, have been attacked because of the degree to which they were showing up in the food supply.

As the FDA was announcing its final order in the case Friday, the Department of Agriculture announced that 120,000 turkey carcesses were being held off the market in central Missouri because of possible PCB contamination. It said Ralston Purina Co. of St. Louis had found the contaminated birds at its packing plant in California, Mo.

The turkeys were in cold storage, and it was believed none had reached the market. A department spokesman said that only about 10 per cent of the total might have to be destroyed.

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