P. B - Article

obliged to present full documentation and justification for his decision." Goldwater continued: "Otherwise, the deliberations of the committee might be no more than a futile exercise."

cc - Mill
1/24 + Papageorge
JSM

FDA TO SURVEY 50 STATES FOR PCB MILK CONTAMINATION

The Food and Drug Administration has ordered a State-by-State survey of the extent of contamination of fluid milk with polychlorinated biphenyls.

The milk survey, which FDA hopes will give the agency a handle on the extent of PCB contamination of milk, is expected to be completed by the end of April.

FDA had previously surveyed 15 categories of foods and their packaging to determine PCB contamination and the problems of migration to food, particularly from grayboard (See FOOD CHEMICAL NEWS, Nov. 22, Page 39; and Dec. 27, Page 34).

As a result of the earlier survey, which is being tabulated now, FDA plans to establish more strict control over the use of PCBs (See FOOD CHEMICAL NEWS, Jan. 31, Page 27).

Under a statement of policy being considered by FDA, the agency would prohibit the use of PCBs in heat transformers and capacitors in food, feed, and food packaging plants - - and similarly in drug operations - - as a precaution against leaks.

FDA Considering 0.1 p.p.m. Limit for PCBs in Reclaimed Fiber

FDA also is considering an amendment of §121.2546 regulating pulp from reclaimed fiber to set a limit of .10 p.p.m. of PCBs from this use in packaging materials. The limit is apparently set at the sensitivity of the current method for detecting PCBs from paper, and would give FDA relatively strong assurances that migration to food, if any, would be in amounts well below current guidelines.

FDA's action will be taken under the §406 provision of the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, which has been rarely used in the past, permitting the establishment of tolerances for poisonous or deleterious ingredients that cannot be avoided by good manufacturing practices.

One fear held by industry and apparently shared by the President's Offices of Management and Budget and Science and Technology is that the PCB restriction in reclaimed fiber will all but eliminate the use of recycled paper being pushed by environmentalists in an effort to save natural resources (See FOOD CHEMICAL NEWS, Feb. 7, Page 44).

There are fears that the guarantees food manufacturers will require from paperboard producers will all but kill the market for grayboard made from recycled paper.

In the instructions to the field on the milk survey, FDA related an earlier milk problem to the misuse of an electrical transformer fluid containing PCB as a vehicle for defoliant spraying operations adjacent to dairy pasturage. PCBs have also been found to be a component of sealants used to treat silos on dairy farms, FDA noted, attributing contamination to this use.

FDA ordered the sampling of both "bottling" milk, defined as milk destined for pasteurization and subsequent bottling for direct consumer use, and "manufacturing milk," which is intended for use as a raw material in the production of consumer dairy products, such as milk, cheese, butter, and ice cream.

The 17 Districts, which have all been assigned sample collections in order to cover the 50 States, were instructed to work with Regional Milk and Food Consultants and State and local officials to determine sampling sources and to facilitate follow-up activities.

Although the program is geared for PCB determinations, the Districts were told to make pesticides analyses and handle these in the usual manner.

Samples of fluid milk were to be picked up from route collection trucks (bulk farm milk pick-up) on completion of pickup or from collection station points prior to further dilution of the milk at the processing plant. If milk is received in cans, FDA said, samples should be collected from the holding tanks prior to processing.

Plastic containers or other containers in which the contents come into contact with rubber or cardboard closures or inserts should not be used in the collection of samples for PCB analysis, the agency said.

Residues above 5 p.p.m. in fat, according to the instructions, require confirmation.

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WODICKA WARNS AGAINST INFORMAL OKAYS TO MARKET UNCLEARED ADDITIVES

Dr. Virgil O. Wodicka, Director of the Bureau of Foods, has issued instructions making clear in no uncertain terms that no products requiring indirect food additive regulations can be marketed without formal clearances by regulations from the Food and Drug Administration.

The Wodicka memorandum; which was directed to Dr. Robert Angelotti, Director of his Bureau's Office of Compliance, was also sent to other Office chiefs, including Dr. Henry Fischbach of the Office of Science, Dr. Keith Lewis of the Office of Food Sanitation, and Dr. Robert Schaffner of the Office of Product Technology.