

OSHA Amends Standard for Carcinogens

An emergency standard designed to protect workers against the toxic effects of 14 cancer-producing materials used in industry has been revised so its requirements may be applied more readily to different types of workplaces and work operations.

At the same time the Department of Labor reconfirmed its original findings concerning the toxicity of all 14 carcinogens, saying that grave danger would result from exposure to any of them.

The Department emphasized, however, that neither the emergency standard nor a proposed permanent standard published July 16 bars the use of any of the cancer-producing agents that are used in the chemical and rubber industries in the manufacture of dyes and pigments, and in the preparation of flame-resistant fabrics.

The revised standard, published in the *Federal Register* July 27, became effective July 30. The standard deals more particularly with different work functions such as isolated environment operations, closed system operations, and open vessel operations.

The major differences from the original emergency standard include the establishment of more accurate warning signs at entrances to controlled areas and labels on containers, and specification of controls necessary to protect employees working in different categories of operations.

The Polyurethane Manufacturers Association of Chicago, applying on behalf of 49 member companies, has been granted an interim variance from the standard. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration said that it would allow the companies to follow substitute procedures pending a final decision on the application. The order affects applicant company operations in 25 states.

The interim order was granted to prevent "undue hardship" while the application is studied. It affects 4,4'-Methylenedianiline (MDA), a chemical used in the manufacture of polyurethanes.

INFLUENCE TOMORROW TODAY...

... the theme of NPCA's 1973 Annual Meeting... to be held November 12-14 in Chicago. For registration forms write NPCA headquarters.

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Maine Approves NPCA Request for Lead Labeling

Dr. Dean Fisher, Commissioner of the Maine Department of Health and Welfare, has advised NPCA that its request for alternate wording for labels of products with lead content in excess of that permitted by state law (0.5%) has been approved.

The Maine law passed earlier this year requires that covered products be labeled with specific language but provides for approval in writing of alternate wording.

NPCA requested and the Department now has approved the use of such alternate wording. The alternate word-

ing is consistent with NPCA Recommended Label 14 for household products and the NPCA Recommended Label for Industrial Coatings Containing Lead Compounds in the Association's new Labeling Guide.

The Maine Lead Poisoning Control Act becomes effective on October 3, 1973. All products marketed in the state after that date must bear the prescribed labeling. Any product which may be purchased by the general public must bear the label warning prescribed for household or trade sales products.

Report on Supply of Raw Materials Released

The first report on the status of the supply of raw materials in the paint and coatings industry has been released by NPCA's Industry Suppliers Committee. Industry Suppliers Bulletin #73-11.

The report will be issued periodically to keep NPCA member companies informed on the current supply of raw materials used by the industry, according to Royal A. Brown, NPCA's Technical Director.

The Bulletin uses a color code to show current production capacity as well as supply green indicates an adequate supply is available, yellow, the demand and supply are in balance, and red, the demand exceeds the supply.

The report includes information on the current supply situation concerning production capacity, supply of intermediates for the raw material, and comments on the reasons for the current shortage, if one exists.

The report gives information in the following categories of raw materials: **RESINS**—styrenes, polyesters, acrylics, epoxies, vinyls, melamines and ureas, PVA latex, acrylic latex, natural types, hydrocarbons, phenolics, resin and colloidals; **PIGMENTS**—titanium dioxide, zinc oxide, clays and natural silicas, synthetic silicas, barytes, talc, calcium carbonate, inorganic and organic colors, and aluminum; **SOLVENTS**—hydrocarbons (aliphatic and aromatic), esters, ketones, alcohols, and nitrated paraffins; **ADDITIVES**—driers, fungicides, mildewicides, and special; and **CONTAINERS**—trade sales types and child protection packages.

The Industry Suppliers Committee has emphasized that NPCA members should consult their own supplier for details and the most current information on a given type of material. The Committee

has also indicated that it will be glad to include comments on other types of raw materials if a need is expressed by members. Comments and requests for copies may be obtained by writing: Royal A. Brown, Technical Director, NPCA headquarters.

DOT Explains Procedures for Clearing Records of Violations

The Department of Transportation's Office of Hazardous Materials has explained procedures enabling shippers to clear their records following an inspection and violation notice.

Basically, the procedure involves notifying the appropriate regional and national officials that the violations have been corrected.

DOT noted that a shipper of hazardous materials is obligated to comply with the Hazardous Materials Regulations or the Motor Carriers Safety Regulations. When an inspection discloses that the shipper has not accepted the responsibility, the record has been established and cannot be cleared by administrative action. However, when the shipper takes corrective action, these measures can also be made a matter of record.

When the inspector completes his inspection, a plant or company official should review the findings to establish a clear understanding of the violations (See "DOT Clearing Records Explained" on page 78.)

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The airlines in the best group this time received an average of 23 complaints per million enplanements; those in the worst category received an average of 76. That's up slightly from 18 and 68, respectively, the last time. The number of people writing complaint letters has also increased, from an average of about 500 a month to nearly 700. The increase in complaints is not necessarily an indication of declining service. It may just reflect a greater awareness among the public of where to complain.

For the airlines as a whole, the thing most complained about in our current analysis was flight delays, followed closely by problems with fares and refunds. Other major complaint categories, in descending order, were general ticketing problems, overbooking, flight cancellations, customer treatment and baggage loss.

As we said last time, the CAB does not verify the accuracy of each complaint it receives; on the other hand, the number of people who take the trouble to write a letter to the CAB about poor service undoubtedly represents only a small percentage of those experiencing problems. If you want to join the ranks of disgruntled airline passengers who do take that trouble, write to the Civil Aeronautics Board, Office of Consumer Affairs, Washington, D.C. 20428.

While FDA ponders, babies drink lead

The age-old problem of lead poisoning is finally receiving serious attention, particularly in regard to young children in urban ghetto areas. A Federal law has made it illegal since January 1 of this year to sell any paint that contains more than 0.50 per cent of lead in the dry paint film.

But a child's diet, and particularly an infant's, is mostly milk, perhaps a formula based on the 13-ounce can of evaporated milk. Parents feeding their babies that supposedly wholesome start in life may be surprised to learn that the evaporated milk could contain lead. And, more shocking still, that nothing has been accomplished to date to eliminate the hazard.

Most evaporated milk cans are made of a tin-plated steel rectangle that is rolled into a cylinder and soldered along the seam with a lead-based compound.

The circular tinplate top and bottoms are flanged and then soldered to the cylinder. Milk goes into the can through a small hole punched at one end, and the hole is sealed with a drop of solder. It's been done that way for over a century.

Most canned food other than evaporated milk goes into containers that have been improved to eliminate, as far as possible, lead contact with the food. Side seams now are overlapped and soldered on the outside. Some cans are welded without solder. Aluminum cans are drawn without a side seam, incorporating the bottom into a seamless unit. For further protection, most tinplated or all-steel cans today are lacquered inside prior to the prefill washing.

These technological advances have upped the price of the empty can, but they have greatly lowered the risk of lead contamination. Why then, is milk still canned in the old-fashioned way? Possibly because most evaporated-milk canners manufacture their own cans and, in a stagnant market, lack economic incentive to modernize or to purchase more expensive cans.

There's already too much lead in the air we breathe, the food we eat and the water we drink, thanks partly to the automobile's pollution of our atmosphere. Why, then, should we permit additional lead in a basic food like canned evaporated milk?

One reason is that, until two years ago, no one had established a maximum lead intake that a person could absorb or ingest without hazard. However, prompted by concern over lead poisoning of young children, the Department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW) several years ago commissioned an ad hoc committee to establish a daily permissible intake (DPI) as a reference base for preventive measures. In 1971, the committee established 300 micrograms to be the maximum DPI of lead from all sources for children between one and three years old—the ages when children are apt to eat paint, patty and other lead-containing non-foods.

Last year, an HEW agency, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), initiated what seemed to be a serious attempt to cut down on the lead content in evaporated milk. By midsummer it was announced that, through cooperative studies with the industry-based Evaporated Milk Association, a voluntary FDA temporary guideline would

WORK IN PROGRESS

Next month

THE SPECIAL

Christmas Buying Issue

INCLUDING A REPORT ON

Subminiature Cameras

All of them small enough to fit in a shirt pocket—including less expensive models that use the new 110 film size . . . plus Ratings reports on other products suitable for your gift list

MEN'S DURABLE-PRESS SHIRTS
CASSETTE RECORDERS
ASTRONOMICAL TELESCOPES
SURF SPINNING TACKLE
FOR YOUR HOLIDAY DINNERS.
WE RATE FROZEN TURKEY

And the annual "best buy" gift roundup

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October 1973

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A new CU book covers consumer education for tots

Consumer learning starts early and starts at home. Television commercials, family buying habits, and the quality and everyday use of material possessions are influencing children's consumer development. A new CU publication, *Early Childhood Consumer Education*, shows parents how to understand and guide these early influences and take educational advantage of such familiar activities as shopping trips and food preparation.

The book also includes case studies of consumer education programs in day care centers, nursery schools, kindergartens, and parent programs, which should be of special interest to early childhood educators.

The early childhood volume is one of six consumer education books produced by CU's Educational Services Division under a grant from the Office of Education of the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. The other volumes cover elementary level, secondary level, two-year colleges and postsecondary institutes, adult education, and teacher preparation. To order, write: Consumers Union, ESD Box A, Orangeburg, N. Y. 10962. Price: \$3 per volume; \$15 for the boxed set of six.

CONSUMER EDUCATION MATERIALS PROJECT ORDER FORM

To Consumers Union, ESD Box A, Orangeburg, New York 10962
Please send the books indicated,
for which payment is enclosed.

No. of books	Title	Each	Total
	<i>Early Childhood Consumer Education</i> (100)	\$ 3.	3
	<i>Elementary Level Consumer Education</i> (100)	\$ 3.	3
	<i>Secondary Level Consumer Education</i> (100)	\$ 3.	3
	<i>Consumer Education in 2- & 4-Year Colleges/Postsecondary Yearbook & Faculty Institutes</i> (100)	\$ 3.	3
	<i>Preparing the Teacher Educator</i> (100)	\$ 3.	3
	<i>Adult Consumer Education in the Community</i> (77)	\$ 3.	3
	Send out all the six books (100)	\$15.	3

Please make checks payable to: Consumers Union, ESD
I enclose \$_____ to full payment.

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ONCE OVER CONTINUED

go into effect January 1 of this year limiting the lead content of canned evaporated milk to 0.50 part per million (ppm), or about 200 micrograms of lead in a 13-ounce can of milk.

The industry agreed to change its old canning methods, specifically the flux that cleans oxides from the metal surfaces so that the solder can adhere to the tin coating. That flux is the prime suspect of the contamination because it makes the lead solder it contacts soluble, thus releasing it into the milk.

But January passed without an FDA guideline, standard or regulation, voluntary or otherwise, going into effect. So did February. In March, CU decided to see if industry had improved the situation all by itself. We bought and tested six different brands of canned evaporated milk in the 13-ounce size. CU's consultant reported that no brand tested fell below 0.56 ppm; the highest was 0.84 ppm and the average of the six milks tested was 0.70. That would be about 280 micrograms of lead in a 13-ounce can, practically up to HEW's DFI maximum, for children, of 300 micrograms for lead from all sources: air, water, food and nonfoods!

The brands tested were A&P (A&P Stores, NYC); Borden Silver Cow (Borden, Inc., NYC); Carnation Velvettred (Carnation Co., Los Angeles); Food Fair (Food Fair Stores, Philadelphia); Grand Union Homogenized (The Grand Union Co., East Paterson, N.J.); and Pet (Pet, Inc., St. Louis). According to their labels, all had added carrageenan, a thickener and emulsifier, and added vitamin D. What the labels didn't say is that they all had lead.

As yet, there has been no way to determine accurately the DFI of lead for an infant under a year old. And newborn infants through their first four months are the most likely consumers of canned evaporated milk in their initial formula feedings. The baby may be getting more lead right now than is recommended for older children, with the bulk of it coming through its food.

Meanwhile FDA and the industry proceed at a linden pace to establish a voluntary standard. The latest word we've heard is that studies are still going on that may, sometime, help to establish a standard, and possibly a standard

that will set lower lead content limits in evaporated milk than those proposed to date. That eventual standard may also cover baby foods, prepared formula and juices and, in addition to limiting lead content, may also limit tin and cadmium and other naturally existing toxic elements that are increased by the canning process.

There are, of course, alternatives to evaporated milk. Various studies have shown that the lead content of fresh milk ranges from undetectable up to 0.23 ppm, depending on the lead content of the fodder the cow eats. Fresh milk is more expensive and is perishable. Fat-free powdered milk has the same lead content as whole, fresh milk; it costs less and has a long storage life.

But, CU wonders why consumers should have to take alternatives in order to avoid the lead. Canners of other foods have managed to avoid contamination.

Early in August, we reported our test data to FDA and requested that the agency take compliance action. It seems clear to us that the old-fashioned evaporated milk can should go. And the sooner the better. That won't happen with a voluntary standard.

CU annual meeting at Iowa City

Members of Consumers Union cast 374,816 ballots in this year's election to fill six vacancies on CU's 21-member Board of Directors. The ballots will be officially cast and the six will begin their three-year terms at CU's annual business meeting, Friday, October 12, at 4:30 p.m. at the Iowa Memorial Union on the University of Iowa campus, Iowa City. Members and conference participants are cordially invited to the meeting.

Two of the newly elected directors—Herbert S. Denenberg and Edna Decourvey Johnson—are newcomers to CU's Board. The other four—Bess Myerson, Ralph Nader, Jeffrey O'Connell and Dean Wilson—are incumbents.

Herbert S. Denenberg is insurance commissioner of Pennsylvania and was professor at the Wharton School of Finance and Commerce, University of Pennsylvania. He is the author of "The Insurance Trap" and co-author of "Risk and Insurance."

Edna Decourvey Johnson is director of consumer services of the Baltimore

Urban League and a former teacher and technical adviser for consumer education in the U.S. Office of Education. Her memberships include the Consumer Advisory Council of the American Bankers Association, the Maryland Consumers Council and the Virginia Citizens Consumer Council. She is the author of "There is No Money Tree" and co-author of "Consumer Protection Program—How Baltimore is Trying to Meet a Need."

Colston E. Warner, president of CU, paid tribute to two Board members whose terms expire this month and who have served with distinction.

They are Stewart M. Lee, chairman and professor, Department of Economics and Business Administration, Geneva College, Beaver Falls, Pa., and Edward Reich, former supervisor of New York City's consumer education program. Dr. Lee has been a member of CU's Executive Committee and has been a member of the Board since 1970. Dr. Reich has served as CU's vice president, treasurer and as a member of the Executive Committee. He has been a member of the Board since 1943. Here are the results of the balloting:

Ralph Nader (Elected)	295,367
Bess Myerson (Elected)	262,941
Jeffrey O'Connell (Elected)	206,109
Dean Wilson (Elected)	189,689
Herbert S. Denenberg (Elected)	181,997
Edna Decourvey Johnson (Elected)	160,757
Edward Reich	157,421
Stewart M. Lee	132,312
Joel Weinberg	129,160
Byron D. Shar	128,413
Nicholas Johnson	123,512
Harold Henderson	123,446
Henry H. Villard	82,539

CU's annual meeting and conference this year will be held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Iowa Consumers League.

The two-day program will include workshops on energy, product safety, the proposed Iowa Consumer Credit Code and health care delivery. The CU

business meeting—open to members and conference participants—will begin at 4:30 P.M. on Friday. A session at 6 P.M. Friday will be open to the public for discussion of CU policies and programs. CU's Board and staff will welcome inquiries at that time.

During the two-day session CU will show pilot films to demonstrate how consumer reports articles can be translated into material suitable for television news programs.

Saturday's program will feature addresses by Herbert Denenberg and Richard O. Simpson, chairman of the Federal Product Safety Commission. Ralph Nader will speak at a special meeting at 7:30 p.m. Saturday at the Iowa Memorial Union. Registration for the full two-day program is \$8.83 for students. There will be no admission charge for the Nader address. The Saturday luncheon will cost \$4.50 and the Saturday dinner \$7.50. The full program, including the two meals, can be purchased as a package for \$17. If reservations are made by October 10, the price will be \$15.

Registration and program details may be obtained from the Iowa Consumers League, 2000 Walker St., Des Moines, Iowa 50317, telephone (515) 262-9571; or from the Center for Conferences and Institutes, University of Iowa, Iowa Memorial Union, Iowa City, Iowa 52240, telephone (319) 353-4505. Accommodations should be reserved with Peggy Huston at the Iowa Memorial Union.

Revised Innerspring mattress set remains a Best Buy

We have purchased and examined a J.C. Penney's Fashion Manor 2300/2301 Innerspring mattress set, available at Penney's retail stores at \$64.25 each for the mattress and box springs. According to Penney's, this model is substantially the same as the model 3500/3501 that was a Best Buy in our May 1973 report on innerspring mattress sets. The new model differs in the ticking and the padding to make it comply with the recently established Federal standard for mattress flammability.

Our tests and examinations of the new mattress lead us to the judgment that its performance and durability will be about the same as the old model's. The price, although up \$9.90 for the set, preserves its designation as a Best Buy.

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