PCB Misc.

NEW JERSEY STATE
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
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PCBs -- A PROBLEM

YOU MAY NOT KNOW YOU HAVE

If your business involves the manufacturing, processing or handling of food or animal feed, you should know that three Federal agencies -- the Environmental Protection Agency, the Food and Drug Administration and the Department of Agriculture -- are considering prohibition of the use of electrical equipment containing Polychlorinated Biphenyls.

Commonly known as "PCBs", this family of toxic substances has not been manufacturered in the U.S. since 1977. But it is present in many major items of electrical equipment, including transformers, capacitors and electromagnets as well as in certain heat transfer and hydraulic systems. PCBs are often present also in small capacitors and in electrical equipment which contains capacitors such as switch gear, fractional horsepower motors and ballasted lighting fixtures.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) reports that because some large quantities of food have had to be destroyed due to PCB contamination, companies in the food and feeds businesses are urged to institute voluntary contamination prevention programs. In the main, this involves a careful check of all equipment which might harbor PCBs and the replacement of units found to actually contain them.

As a guide to identifying such equipment and outlining procedures for a prevention program, the agency has prepared a free 18-page instructional booklet "Polychlorinated Biphenyls, An Alert for Food and Feed Facilities".

To obtain a copy, call EPA's Industry Assistance Office (toll free) in Washington: (800) 424-9065.

For further technical assistance, you may contact the agency's Regional PCB Coordinator, Mr. Ralph Larsen, at 26 Federal Plaza, New York, New York, 10017. Telephone: (212) 264-1925.

If you prefer to obtain technical assistance through the Food and Drug Administration, you may contact instead Mr. Caesar A. Roy, Regional Director, 830 3rd Avenue, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11232. Telephone: (212) 965-5416.

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