

Monsanto

COMPANY

800 N. Lindbergh Boulevard
St. Louis, Missouri 63166
(314) 634-1000

TOXICITY OF SANTOLUBES 65 AND 66

When administered undiluted orally to rats, the approximate LD₅₀ (lethal dose) is 12,500 and 11,900 milligrams per kilogram of body weight respectively. The minimum lethal doses when applied undiluted to the skin of rabbits is between 790 and 1260 mg/kg for Santolube 65 and between 1260 and 2000 mg/kg for Santolube 66.

These data indicate that the products are not seriously toxic if accidentally ingested. On the other hand, they may be moderately toxic if there is prolonged and repeated skin contact. Further, in relation to skin contact, experience has shown that prolonged and repeated skin contact in humans may lead to drying and cracking of the skin because the solvent action of the additives removes the normal protective fats and oils (similar to many hydrocarbons and common products such as paint thinners).

In some oil solutions, these Santolubes appear to penetrate the skin more readily with greater toxic affects. When 4% corn oil solutions were applied daily for twenty days, the lethal dose was approximately 50 mg/kg in the case of Santolube 65 and 75 mg/kg for Santolube 66.

Our recommendations for the safe use of these additives include:

- 1) Avoidance of repeated and prolonged skin contact.
- 2) Avoidance of prolonged inhalation of vapors or mists. (Due to low vapor pressures, the inhalation hazard is not serious at ambient temperatures).
- 3) Clothing soaked with the additives should be laundered before reuse.

M. N. Johnson
M. N. Johnson, M. D.
Assistant Medical Director

October 15, 1968

MONS 097893