produced by means of atomization; ___exposing products to a natural liquid smoke produced by heat regeneration; ____ exposing products to a natural liquid smoke which in turn will give a smoked color and flavor characteristic regardless of the method."

Many of the firms checked all three alternatives.

Comments on MDM Still Complain of Bone Chips

Consumer comments on the Definition of Meat proposal continue to focus on the question of "bone chips" in mechanically deboned meat (MDM), in response to an Associated Press report warning that this may be a hazard (See FOOD CHEMICAL NEWS, June 7, Page 45).

A small number of the nearly 260 comments received so far focused on other issues, however. Some consumers wrote that they would consider bone particles, no matter how small, an "adulterant" in their meat.

The labeling question was also raised. Some consumers, usually those who referred to the straight-forward article in the Office of Consumer Affairs newsletter, stated that they feel a label distinction should be made for products containing MDM.

The Agriculture Department held its second briefing on the proposal in Sacramento last week. There was reportedly a good interplay among government, industry, and consumers, but some were disappointed at the small consumer response to the briefing.

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FDA IS NEARING DECISION ON REDUCING TOLERANCE FOR PCB'S IN FISH

Food and Drug Administration officials are getting closer to a decision on whether or not the agency should reduce its polychlorinated biphenyl tolerance from 5 to 2 p.p.m. for fish (See FOOD CHEMICAL NEWS, May 17, Page 50).

A warning from Michigan health officials to state residents to limit their intake of Michigan sport fish to one meal per week may spur FDA to take action to lower the tolerance (See FOOD CHEMICAL NEWS, June 14, Page 2).

Additionally, Indiana State Agriculture officials have begun inspecting meat from Bloomington meat packers to determine whether or not PCB residues can be detected in livestock grazing on grass on which sludge, which may be contaminated with PCB's, has been used as fertilizer. PCB residues have been detected by State authorities in milk from dairy cows and in some crops grown on sludge-treated soil.

A Westinghouse facility reportedly has been discharging PCB's into a local stream. FDA-ers believe similar discharges may be occurring in other parts of the country, and has asked the Environmental Protection Agency to check on as many as 50 electrical equipment manufacturing plants.