Regarding registration of establishments with EPA, the company said regulations under this section "should specifically state that information required under this section shall be confidential and subject to the provisions of Section 10 (trade secrets) of the Act."

The same confidentiality should extend to books and records required to be maintained, the company said, and: "The regulations should state that inspectors from EPA should notify of intended inspections of records at least seven days in advance of inspection."

The Corn Refiners Association wrote EPA that the definition of substances regulated by the agency is less clear than under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, which the new law supersedes in many respects. The company asked for clarification in subsequent regulations.

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FLUORESCENT LIGHTS COULD SPRAY INDUSTRIAL CHEMICAL, EPA IS TOLD

The Ralph Nader-affiliated Health Research Group has "tipped" the Environmental Protection Agency and several other governmental groups to a possible testing bias regarding the industrial chemical, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs).

Dr. Sidney Wolfe of the Nader group wrote to EPA Administrator Ruckelshaus last week of an Oct. 17 report that "in many medical research laboratories, spontaneous overheating of the ballast or capacitor which is part of each fluorescent fixture causes very high levels of PCBs in the laboratory.

The industrial chemical is used, he noted, in heavy chemical equipment and fluoroscent light fixtures. PCB contamination has subjected hundreds of lots of poultry to recall over the last several years, usually through heat-transfer machinery accidents.

Wolfe noted that since July of 1971, all fluorescent light ballasts have been manufactured with a thermal control which prevents overheating and thus minimizes the possibility of PCBs being sprayed about the laboratories. He urged that EPA, the Food and Drug Administration and the Department of Agriculture direct the replacement in their labs of all fluorescent light ballasts installed before July of 1971.

Wolfe also stated: "Aside from the possible adverse effects on the health of the workers in these laboratories, the levels of PCBs were sufficiently high to make interpretation of experiments being conducted in the laboratories difficult if not impossible."

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