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AMERICAN FEED MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

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May 15, 1972

Hearing Clerk
Department of Health, Education and Welfare
Food and Drug Administration
5600 Fishers Lane - Room 6-88
Rockville, Maryland 20852

Re: Polychlorinated Biphenyls - Proposed temporary tolerances for unavoidable residues and proposed modifications of certain regulations - 21 CFR Parts 3, 121, 122, 128 - Federal Register, March 18, 1972

Dear Sir:

The American Feed Manufacturers Association, as the national trade association representing manufacturers of animal feeds, presents these views on the proposed temporary tolerances for unavoidable residues of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB's) and the proposed changes or additions to certain related federal regulations. These comments are confined to those portions of the proposals relating to animal feeds and their production.

We endorse the recognition of the problem of unavoidable PCB residues in feed ingredients and manufactured feeds. We support all appropriate, feasible action directed at preventing the introduction of additional PCB's into the environment. We equally support similar realistic action designed to minimize the unavoidable residues occurring from PCB's already present in the environment.

With respect to the proposed temporary tolerance contained in proposal number five and proposed Section 122.10 of Part 122, we believe two modifications are necessary. These involve items (e) and (f), Finished animal feeds and Animal feed components, respectively.

The term Finished animal feed is interpreted (by industry usage) to include both complete and supplement/concentrate type feeds. On the basis of information available to us, the proposed tolerance of 0.5 ppm is appropriate for complete feed. Supplement/concentrate type feed, however, will often contain high levels of animal and marine origin ingredients, and, hence, may contain higher levels of PCB residues. Item (e) should be changed to Complete animal feed. A subsequent item of Supplement/Concentrate animal feed should be added. The level for this item should be 0.5 ppm (on a complete feed basis).

As an alternate to the above changes, leave item (e) as Finished animal feed, but modify the 0.5 ppm level shown with the proviso (on a complete feed basis).

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A separate addition should be made to cover certain animal feeds and pet foods high in ingredients of animal and marine origin. Examples are "meat" type mink and similar feeds and canned or frozen pet foods.

Item (f), Animal feed components, is interpreted to include all feed ingredients. Again, on the basis of information available to us, the proposed tolerance of 5.0 ppm is appropriate for ingredients of animal and marine origin, particularly those containing substantial fat. On the basis of this same information, however, substantially lower levels are normally found in ingredients of plant origin - such as the grains and their by-products. In view of this fact, and the contemplated tolerance of 0.5 ppm for complete feed, we believe Animal feed components should be divided into two groups. A temporary tolerance of 1.0 ppm is recommended for the ingredients not of animal or marine origin.

With respect to the proposed changes to regulations, the following comments are made on the specific sections listed.

Part 3 - Use of PCB's in the production and storage of animal feed - paragraph (b) (3) (i). The last sentence states "...does not contain PCB's or any other harmful or deleterious substances." We submit it is a practical impossibility to eliminate all substances that could conceivably be harmful. The reference to "other harmful or deleterious substances" should be deleted or appropriately modified.

Paragraph (b) (3) (iii), which calls for the elimination of PCB containing materials from the feed mill. Attention is called to the use of PCB's in electrical transformer fluids, and that it may not be possible to use substitutes due to design and construction. This, and other possible exceptions, should be recognized. This same comment is, of course, applicable to paragraph (b) (2) (ii) - Use of PCB's in establishments manufacturing food-packaging materials.

We appreciate your consideration of these comments. Should explanation or additional information be desired, we will be pleased to receive and comply with your requests.

Yours truly,

Lee H. Boyd, Director
Feed Control and Nutrition

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