(Summary translation of February 26 of the "Yomiuri")

PCB Found Used in Carbon Papers

Professor N. Kuratsune, Kyushu University, Assistant Professor Y. Masuda, Fukuoka Daichi College of Phermacy reported on February 25 that carbonless carbon paper(CCP) contains PCB which will penetrate into human bodies through skins of office clerks and will also pollute office environments. They say they intend to advise Welfare Ministry and MITI to set forth PCB Regulations and report the results of their study at a Higienics Conference scheduled for April in Tokyo.

At the suggestion of the National Cancer Research Center that CCP might contain PCB, they started their study and proved by analysis that CCP contains 3 - 6% PCB. They also detected 11 - 52 microgram PCB in the fingers of those who handled a hundred sheets of CCP, about two thirds of which PCB were found still remaining even after washing with soap and water. Their opinion is that it is desirable to avoid use of PCB in CCP but that if no other suitable solvent is available, CCP manufacturers should be obligated to attach to their products labels stating, "Be sure to wash your hands after handling CCP".

(Summary translation of February 27 issue of the "Yomiuri")

Where Does PCB Sneak into?

5,000t/y at Large Under No Regulations

A report issued on February 25 by Kyushu University clarified the fact that PCB is possibly polluting offices and homes.

Although 5,000 tons/year of PCB are produced in Japan, neither Welfare Ministry nor MITI exactly know to what fields of application the product is directed. According to Kanegafuchi Chemical, most of the product is used for electrical insulation and heat-transfer medium.

Scientists comment that PCB will be a new health pollutant emerging after BHC. On February 26, Labor and Welfare Ministries decided to get detailed data from Kyushu University. At the same time, Labor Ministry has started studying whether or not PCB be added to the list of harmful, toxic materials specified under the Regulations for Labor Safety and Welfare.