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PESTICIDE CHEMICAL NEWS

Although EPA has not responded to the HRG petition or labeling proposal, the agency's position on DDVP has been that there is insufficient evidence to establish a cause and effect relationship between DDVP and reported adverse effects. The Criteria and Evaluation Division, Office of Pesticide Programs, EPA, is still reviewing DDVP uses.

EPA SUSPENDS 14 MORE VINYL CHLORIDE CONTAINING PESTICIDES

Brand names of 42 more pesticides containing vinyl chloride have been released by the Environmental Protection Agency. Of the 42, 14 were suspended (See April 17, Page 21; and April 24, Page 20).

The agency noted that 40 of the 42 products were for indoor use but that registrations of 26 of the indoor use products were amended by Spray-Chem Corporation to delete use of vinyl chloride before the EPA suspension/cancellation order was issued.

Firms holding registrations for the suspended products have provided assurances that the products are no longer being shipped, according to EPA. The 42 products and manufacturers are listed below (D indicates distributor):

Pet Repel "Number 120," Hysan Corp., (D) Beach Distributors; "K" Insect Spray "Zap Insecticide," Hysan Corp., (D) Sentry Chemical Co.; McNess Push-Button Spray Insect Killer, Furst-McNess Co.; Kilzum Fly & Mosquito w/allevrin, Kilzum Crawling Insect Killer w/Baygon, Navy Brand Mfg. Co.; Insect Repellent for Personal Use, Farmland Industries; Patterson's Aerosol Insect Killer, Patterson Chemical Co.; Lice and Mite Spray, Carson Chemical Co.; African Violet Spray, Stim-U-Plant Labs.;

Dogette Flea Killer & Coat Conditioner, Cat-ette Flea Killer, Lora Labs.; Insecticide for Flying Insects, Spray-Chem Corp., (D) Sin-Ro Div.; Blue White Ant & Roach Killer, Blue White Chemical Co.; Kil Kill-M Insecticide, Central States Chem. Co., (D) Industrial Chem. Labs., Inc.; IMPACT Insect Spray, (D) Industrial Soap Co.; Insecticide for flying insects, (D) Freesmeier Labs.; Super Deth for flying insects, (D) John D. Moore; Insecticide for flying insects, (D) Vego Chem. Co.; Fly-Doom, (D) Good Life Chemicals, Inc.; Research Fly Killer, (D) Research Products Co.; Bug-Deth, (D) Progress Chemicals, Inc.; Bug-Deth, (D) Americhem Research Corp.; Bug-Deth, (D) Ruth Industries; Insecticide for flying insects, (D) Dart Research; Bug-Deth, (D) Essential Products; PHAUG, (D) Ruth Industries, Inc.;

Insecticide for crawling insects, Spray-Chem Corp.; Res. Roach & Bug Killer Insecticide, (D) Industrial Chemical Labs., Inc.; Roach n' Ant Killer w/Dizon, (D) Good-Life Chemicals, Inc.; Insect Repellent, Spray-Chem Corp.; Insect Repellent, (D) Twin Bridges Store & Canoe Rental; BUG-OFF Insect Repellent, (D) Navy Brand Mfg. Co.; Clover Insect Repellent, (D) Clover Chemical Corp.; Insect Repellent for all insects, (D) Sin-Ro Division, Central States Chem. Co.; Patterson's Ant & Roach spray - contains Baygon, (D) Patterson Chem. Co.; KILZUM ant & roach killer w/Baygon, (D) Navy Brand Mfg. Co.; Good-Life ant & roach killer w/Baygon, (D) Goodlife Chemicals, Inc.; Gateway Insect Fogger, Spray-Chem Corp.

Weedkiller, Demert & Dougherty; Tomato Set Spray, Sherwin Williams.

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OSHA Vinyl Chloride Standard Hearings Continue This Week

The hearings on the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's permanent vinyl chloride standard (See June 26, Page 10) resumed July 8. No date has been set for concluding the hearings.

Labor union representatives testified in support of the standard but also indicated a willingness to consider a higher interim vinyl chloride level than specified in the standard.

Dow Chemical Company's Dr. V. K. Rowe, Director, Toxicological Affairs, one of eight Dow witnesses at the hearing, reported that "periodic medical examinations and clinical studies indicate no evidence of any adverse effect on any organ system attributable to vinyl chloride in a population with random plant exposures up to 200 p.p.m." Rowe stated:

"We have found no evidence of any deaths due to angiosarcoma or liver malignancy of any kind in our workers exposed to vinyl chloride.

"We can only conclude that the absence of the signs and symptoms noted must be associated with the overall low exposure levels our employees have experienced. The significance of these observations is extremely important in considering the future regulations dealing with the handling and use of vinyl chloride monomer."

In Dow plants, Rowe noted, the eight-hour time weighted average vinyl chloride concentration is 10 p.p.m.

Dow witnesses testified that the firm's workers exposed to vinyl chloride have malignancy rates no different than that expected for the unexposed group with which they were compared. The accumulated records show no evidence of any deaths due to angiosarcoma or other liver malignancy of any kind in Dow workers exposed to vinyl chloride, according to Dow testimony.

The company's representatives warned that excessive requirements for the use of respirators and protective equipment could result in increased risk and injury to workers due to stress and impairment of vision, hearing, mobility, agility and dexterity.

OSHA's Draft EIS on the Standard Notes its "Adverse Consequences"

OSHA's draft environmental impact statement (EIS) on the proposed standard noted that "this proposal is not without adverse consequences."

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The draft EIS said the cost of complying with the standard could not be estimated but that the cost could "threaten the existence of marginal firms."

And, according to the EIS, adoption of the proposed standard might mean that compliance would be obtained by removing the hazard from the workplace and passing vinyl chloride monomer into the ambient air. The draft EIS said:

"The standard for the most part will likely cause a slight decrease in productivity and small increase in costs for the products made from vinyl chloride.

"It is expected that most companies producing or using vinyl chloride or poly vinyl chloride will be able to absorb such costs, so that the economic impact will be minimal in these cases.

"However, some firms may incur substantial capital costs in meeting the requirements of the standard. The carcinogenic potential of vinyl chloride may also initiate a search for substitutes for poly vinyl chloride products.

"In some cases, demand will increase for the known substitutes that are already in short supply or whose harvesting or mining will cause environmental degradation."

OSHA said that a "complete ban" of vinyl chloride does not seem warranted by the hazards of the substance. But, the draft EIS observed, subsequent evidence of toxicological effects of vinyl chloride might indicate that a complete ban is necessary.

"However, alternatives to retain the level at 50 p.p.m. or higher are not viable because of the preliminary results of tests that indicate exposure to vinyl chloride at 50 p.p.m. may constitute a serious hazard to employees," the draft EIS declared.

There is no evidence that the proposed standard would stop vinyl chloride production, the draft EIS said. It added that vinyl chloride production in some plants might be "curtailed if reengineering is required."

Reengineering costs could be "very substantial," the EIS noted. And, "work practice changes may reduce productivity of the worker if more involved procedures are required in a particular manufacturing step," according to the draft EIS. It continued:

"Finally, if engineering controls or work practice methods are not immediately feasible, the provision of personal protective equipment would be an additional purchase and maintenance expense. In addition, required personal protective equipment may reduce the productivity of a worker through reduced mobility."