

New PCB rules offer more protection—CMA

CMA considers EPA's recently issued regulations governing the inadvertent generation of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) to be "effective, reasonable rules that will provide an increased level of protection for the environment."

The final regulations are based in large part on a consensus proposal submitted to the agency last April by CMA, the Natural Resources Defense Council and the Environmental Defense Fund. That proposal was the result of negotiations among the three organizations following a 1980 federal appeals court decision that struck down parts of the agency's original regulations implementing the Toxic Substances Control Act.

In 1970, the government banned the manufacture of PCBs because of reports of widespread contamination in the environment, but it permitted the continued use of PCBs in equipment such as transformers and capacitors. PCBs are, however, inadvertently generated as unwanted byproducts of various manufacturing processes. Since the ban five years ago, the amount of PCBs in the environment has steadily declined because of curtailed use, proper disposal and environmental degradation.

Basically, the final EPA rule:

- Limits PCBs inadvertently generated in products to an average annual concentration of 25 parts per million (ppm), and sets a 50 ppm maximum.
- Establishes concentration limits of 10 ppm on releases of inadvertently generated PCBs to the air and 0.1 ppm to water.

• Specifies how inadvertently generated PCBs are to be measured.

• Specifies certification, reporting and record maintenance requirements.

Dr. Kenneth Burgess, chairman of CMA's PCB Program Panel, said the publication of the new rules, "has significance beyond the obvious reason that they establish effective controls."

"They demonstrate quite convincingly what government, industry and organizations like NRDC and EDF can accomplish by working together to find effective, reasonable solutions to environmental issues."

The three groups, Burgess said, "have demonstrated once again that negotiation and agreement are not only possible between organizations like ours but are more beneficial and productive than litigation." □

EPA taps EHA for testing; producers form program panel

Producers and importers of 2-ethylhexanoic acid (EHA) have formed a new program at CMA to interact with EPA about the chemical. EHA was designated for priority testing under section 7 of TSCA in the 14th report of the Interagency Testing Committee.

EHA was scheduled for chronic effects testing, including oncogenicity, based on its structural relationship to four reputed carcinogens (including di-2-ethylhexyl phthalate) and on EHA's ability to cause

certain liver effects.

The major use of EHA is as an intermediate in the production of its salts. The panel is assessing potential exposure to EHA in manufacture, importing and processing. Exposure is expected to be minimal.

In addition, the panel is carefully assessing the toxicity data base in preparation for discussions with EPA.

For further information, contact Dr. Elizabeth Moran at (202) 887-1182. □

FYI:

J. H. Craddock - B3NA

J. G. Nassif - E2ND

Dan Bishop
9-28-84



Dr. Wilbert Hutton, Jr., of Iowa State University, helps students solve involved chemistry problems.

Know someone who deserves a Catalyst?

Fourteen outstanding teachers of chemistry and chemical engineering will be honored by CMA's Catalyst Award program in 1985. The awards recognize chemical educators in high schools and two-year and four-year colleges.

You may know deserving chemistry teachers in your community or at your alma mater. Winners are chosen for teaching excellence, an ability to motivate students to careers in chemistry and allied fields and dedication to science instruction and scholarship.

Winners of the national award each receive \$1,500, a citation and medal. Four professors from four-year colleges, one from a two-year college and one high school teacher will be chosen.

The eight regional award winners, four from two-year colleges and four from high schools, receive \$500, a citation and medal.

Is there someone you'd like to nominate? More information and nomination forms are available from the Catalyst Award Director, CMA, 2501 M St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037. □