

(Translation)

Newspaper: Nihon Keizai Shinbun, Tokyo
Dated: March 10, 1972
Subject: Complete Ban of PCB to be Notified by MITI

Considering the seriousness of the case of high concentration of PCB (Poly Chlorinated Biphenyl) having been detected in mother's milk, the Ministry of International Trade & Industry (MITI) decided on March 17 to notify early next week the industries concerned that the use of PCB in transformers, condensers, etc. of household electric appliances, which cannot be recovered or collected, will be prohibited.

The use of PCB in such products like paints and adhesives which come in direct contact with human body was already prohibited effective January.

By the decision of MITI, the use of PCB will be almost completely prohibited except for larger transformers, etc. of power companies, the supervision and recovery of which could be done fully.

PCB has found extensive use for transformers, etc. of household electric appliances because of its high dielectric power or strength. However, when PCB is absorbed in sizable quantity in human body, it is accumulated in fat and not decomposed, and is liable to cause skin diseases. PCB in transformers and condensers does not come in direct contact with human body, but MITI prohibited the use of PCB in such household appliances for the reason that there are many many cases of such appliances being abandoned in the open air and not properly controlled.

Larger transformers and condensers in use for specific purposes of power companies and in use at the basement of buildings are required to be taken care of properly, and manufacturers of such apparatus are required to collect or recover used PCB. These measures, however, cannot be enforced legally but will be seen fully observed by strong administrative guidance.

Transformers which use PCB are used for rolling stock and for floodlights on high speed toll roads. MITI will ask Transportation and Construction Ministries and others concerned to cooperate with MITI on the PCB problem.