

**CONSUMER PROTECTION: FDA PROPOSES REGULATIONS
TO LIMIT HUMAN EXPOSURE TO PCB'S IN FOODS**

Comprehensive regulations designed to limit human exposure to PCBs (Polychlorinated Biphenyls) in foods were proposed Friday by the Food and Drug Administration.

FDA Commissioner Charles C. Edwards said the regulations will eliminate all sources of direct accidental PCB contamination during handling, processing, and storage of food and packaging materials, and would also prohibit PCB from the recycling process of paper products.

PCB is used widely in industry, and is a major ingredient in some paper products such as food containers. It has caused liver and genetic damage in some laboratory animals and skin ailments among humans. Recently, cases of PCB contamination have resulted in government condemnation of chickens and other poultry products.

The regulations proposed by FDA would set temporary tolerances for a "sufficient period of time" for unavoidable PCB residues in food packing materials and certain foods. Such tolerances are being set, FDA said, because it is not possible at this time to totally eliminate PCBs caused by environmental or industrial contamination.

Although the agency said additional research is needed to determine the effects of low level human exposure to PCBs over a long period of time, it said investigations so far have shown:

1. Except for avoidable industrial accidents and practices, PCB contamination of animal feeds is not a significant problem.
2. PCBs were found in 67 percent of food packaging tested by FDA. They were found in both recycled paper and virgin stock. However, only 19 percent of the foods in these packages contained PCBs, with an average concentration of 0.1 parts per million. Subsequent surveys show a continuing and substantial reduction of PCBs in packaging material.
3. Investigations show the presence of PCB residues in fresh water fish and in some food animals. The source of these residues is attributed in part to environmental contamination, as such discharges of PCB waste effluents into water and air.

"FDA investigations and the work of the PCB interdepartmental task force support these proposed regulations," Dr. Edwards said. "The regulations are realistic and will adequately protect the public health from the potential dangers of PCBs."

FDA's proposal will be published on March 18. Interested persons have 60 days to comment on the proposal.

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**ECONOMIC CONTROLS: PC CHAIRMAN ISSUES SHARP
REBUTTAL TO BUTZ STATEMENTS ON FARM PRICES**

Price Commission Chairman C. Jackson Grayson issued a sharp rebuttal to Agriculture Secretary Earl Butz's remarks encouraging higher farm prices and said the Commission might take action to slow food price increases.

In a surprise statement in the course of a press conference on the Commission's revised utility regulations, Chairman Grayson said Secretary Butz's statements "concerning the necessity and desirability of increasing agricultural prices are damaging to the stabilization program."

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