

August 15, 1974

Zeb Bell
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Re: VCM

Attached is an article from the Washington Post (August 14, 1974) relative to the FDA position on vinyl food packaging.

It appears that the standard for FDA on such products will be "lowest detectable level".

J
F. J. Trunzo, Jr.

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govt. relations subcom. Markup pending legis. 2237 ROB
Judiciary 810:30 a.m. Open. Courts, civil liberties & the admin. of justice subcom. Markup pending legis. 2141 ROB
Merchant Marine Fisheries—10 a.m.
Open Continuing 2428-amend Shipping Act '16 to facilitate intermodal transportation, ICC with 1334 LOB
Ways & Means—10 a.m. Open. Continuing markup of National Health Insurance legis. Comite. room. LOB.

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FDA Plans New Rules on Vinyl Plastic

United Press International

The Food and Drug Administration will soon publish a regulation designed to keep vinyl chloride—the suspected cancer-causing chemical—from seeping out of packages and into food or drugs they contain.

The regulation will specify that no food or drug may contain vinyl chloride at more than the smallest level at which present methods are able to detect it, FDA Commissioner Alexander M. Schmidt said yesterday.

The widely used plastic has already been banned by the EPA and Environmental Protection Agency in aerosols, such as hair sprays and pesticides. The Labor Department is considering a proposal to cut workplace exposure down to zero.

Many food and drug packages are made of vinyl chloride-based plastics but to date there has been no level at which the chemical would be outlawed as a food additive if it "migrates" into what's inside the package.

"In effect we've already removed it from wherever it was appearing (as in the aerosols) except as it might be migrating into liquids, drugs or foods. We have found out wherever it is being used and will be setting a tolerance for it shortly," said Schmidt.

In another development the Consumer Product Safety Commission has received a staff report on its proposal to ban vinyl chloride gas in aerosol products under its jurisdiction—mainly spray paints, household cleaners and some de-greasing agents.

The report sets several alternative recommendations but most commission scientists appear to favor both an outright ban on vinyl chloride in aerosols, plus a program to buy back from consumers the millions of cans of half-used or unused products in homes around the country.