EDB TOLERANCE LEVELS PROPOSED BY EPA FOR IMPORTED MANGOES

Despite the Sept. 1, 1984, ban on the domestic use of ethylene dibromide on any food product, the Environmental Protection Agency proposed Aug. 10 to set temporary tolerance levels for EDB on imported mangoes. Under the proposed rule, the United States can continue to import EDB-treated mangoes with residue levels of 30 parts per billion or less.

The temporary tolerance of 30 ppb, effective until Sept. 1, 1985, "will not significantly increase risks to public health," EPA said. In addition, the temporary tolerance will allow for the development of alternative quarantine treatments for mangoes to prevent the spread of fruit flies. According to EPA, no alternative quarantine treatment currently exists.

Mexico provides 80% of the mangoes currently imported by the United States. The remainder comes from countries in the Caribbean and South America. A number of smaller Caribbean and South American countries ship their fruit to the United States for fumigation. In accordance with the domestic ban, this fumigation will cease on Sept. 1, 1984.

On Aug. 10, EPA also proposed to revoke the EDB inorganic bromide tolerances currently established for a variety of commodities. These include string beans, bitter melons, cantaloupes, Cavendish bananas, cucumbers, guavas, litchi fruit, litchi nuts, longan fruit, bell peppers, pineapples and zucchini squash that have been fumigated after harvest with EDB. Interim EDB tolerance levels for citrus and papayas will expire Sept. 1.

For more information, contact Richard Johnson, Registration Div. (TS-767C), Office of Pesticide Programs, EPA, 401 M St., S.W., Washington, D.C. 20460, (703) 557-7820. Written comments should be sent by Sept. 10 to EPA's Information Services Section, Program Management and Support Div. (TS-757C), Office of Pesticide Programs at the above address.

57 FIRMS SEEK HEARING ON EPA PLAN TO RESTRICT WOOD PRESERVATIVES

Fifty-seven companies have requested an administrative hearing on a July 11 proposal by the Environmental Protection Agency to restrict the use of wood preservatives to applicators (THN, July 18, 1984, p. 227).

Requests for administrative hearings by EPA are generally granted. In an instance where numerous requests have been made, it is highly unlikely that EPA would not hold the hearings. The hearings probably will be scheduled within the next several months.

One of the companies that requested the hearings, Reichhold Chemicals Inc., will argue that pentachlorphenol does not have an unreasonable adverse effect on the environment and that studies show no significant adverse effects on workers. Further, the company contends that the use of penta saves the public millions of dollars annually by extending the useful life of wood and consequently saving tens of millions of trees a year.

AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE is being formed by EPA to negotiate issues leading to a notice of proposed rulemaking on emergency exemption rules under Section 18 of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act. Comments should be sent by Sept. 4 to OPP-180-657, Information Services Section, Program Management and Support Div., Office of Pesticide Programs, EPA, 401 M St., S.W., Washington, D.C. 20460, (202) 382-7565.

GOVERNORS TELL EPA TO SPEED UP REVIEW OF TOXIC AIR POLLUTANTS

A faster and simplier method is needed for the Environmental Protection Agency to review and list toxic air pollutants, the National Governors Association concluded at its annual meeting held July 29-31 in Nashville, Tenn.

Charging EPA with being too slow in making listing decisions, the governors asked the agency to speed up its review of toxic air pollutants and expeditiously list them under Section 112 of the Clean Air Act. To help states control toxic air pollutants, NGA recommended that EPA publish control guidelines "within two years of listing a pollutant," and implement a national air toxics clearinghouse on hazardous pollutants.

States should be authorized to develop more stringent toxic air controls than the federal government, NGA concluded. The group also recommended that more stringent controls be established for newly identified toxic air pollutants than for already known pollutants. In addition, NGA wants EPA to provide technical guidance to states to help them protect against newly identified sources of toxic air pollutants.

As for groundwater, the governors concluded that states can most effectively establish groundwater protection programs because they are best able to evaluate factors affecting their jurisdictions. Likewise, NGA said that states are best able to regulate leaking underground storage tanks and should be given additional federal funding for regulation. The group also recommended that Superfund be amended to include a cleanup program for leaking tanks.

TOXIC MATERIALS NEWS IN BRIEF

• Options for cleaning up "hot spots" of polychlorinated biphenyls contaminating the New Bedford Harbor in Massachusetts have been announced by the Environmental Protection Agency. Ranging in cost from $25 million to $80 million, the options include capping the contaminated sediments, dredging the sediments and disposing them in an unlined containment site, disposing the dredged sediments in a lined containment site or disposing the dredged sediments in an upland containment site.

• U.S. EPA has authorized $960,000 from Superfund to cap the Iron Horse Park asbestos site in Billerica, Mass. Over the next four months, EPA actions at the site will include construction of a 30-inch gravel, stone and topsoil cap; evaluation of the existing site cover; periodic ambient air monitoring; and indoor sampling of selected residences adjacent to the site.

• In a July 18 story on coated bowling pins, TMN described Surlyn as a highly flammable material that emits nerve gas if ignited. A spokesman for DuPont, manufacturer of Surlyn, told TMN that the substance is no more flammable than wood and does not generate phosgene when burned. According to DuPont, "Chemically, phosgene is COCl2. Surlyn, which is composed of carbon, hydrogen, oxygen and the metal ion, does not contain chlorine. It is impossible to form a chlorinated material by combusting a product that doesn't contain chlorine."

• The risk of cancer from children's products containing di-2-ethylhexyl phthalate is "below the range considered to be worthy of regulatory action by the federal government," says a study commissioned by the Chemical Manufacturers Association. Conducted by Dr. Joseph Rodericks, the study concludes that, since rats and mice metabolize DEHP differently from humans, the liver tumors formed in rats and mice fed high doses of DEHP may not occur in humans. The study is available from CMA, 2501 M St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037, (202) 887-1224.

FEDERAL REGISTER NOTICES

Aug. 1: Environmental Protection Agency establishes tolerances for the combined residues of the herbicide dimethyl tetrachloroterephthalate and its metabolites on radish roots at 2.0 parts per million and on radish tops at 15 ppm. p. 30699.

Tolerance for the combined residues of the insecticide hexakis (2-methyl-2-phenylpropyl) distannoxane and its organotin metabolites is established by EPA at 6.0 ppm on eggplants. p. 30700.

EPA establishes tolerances for the combined residues of the herbicide norflurazon and its metabolite at 0.1 ppm on blackberries, 0.2 ppm on blueberries and 0.2 ppm on raspberries. p. 30701.

Aug. 2: Two test marketing exemptions are approved by EPA. Contact Candy Brassard at (202) 382-3480. p. 30996.

Aug. 3: Hercules Inc. petitions EPA for a test marketing exemption for a new aromatic polyester polyol. p. 31136.

EPA publishes the latest premanufacturing notification reports. p. 31136.

Monthly PMN status report for June 1984 is published by EPA. p. 31138.

Aug. 8: EPA sets final tolerance for residues of the insecticide cyano (3-phenoxyphenyl) methyl 4-chloro-alpha-(1-methylethyl) benzeneacetate in or on food items in food handling establishments. p. 31666.

Tolerances for the combined residues of the herbicide 2-[1-(ethylthio)butyl] -5-[2-ethylthio)propyl]-3-hydroxy-2-cyclohexene-1-one and its metabolites are established by EPA at 15 ppm in or on cottonseed soapstock and at 0.5 ppm in or on sugar beet molasses. p. 31667.

EPA grants a tolerance exemption for isophorone when used as a solvent and cosolvent in pesticide formulations. p. 31690.

Tolerance for the combined residues of the insecticide permethrin and its metabolites is set by EPA at 0.05 ppm in or on corn grain. p. 31690.

A tolerance exemption is granted by EPA for the residues of isobutyric acid in or on grapes. p. 31692.

EPA establishes a tolerance for the combined residues of the herbicide 2-[1-(ethoxyimino)butyl]-5-[2-(ethylthio)propyl]-3-hydroxy-2-cyclohexene-1-one and its metabolites at 0.1 ppm for sugar beet roots and 0.2 ppm for sugar beet tops. p. 31692.

A tolerance exemption is granted by EPA for anhydrous lanolin (wool fat) when used as a surfactant in pesticide formulations applied to growing crops. p. 31694.

EPA issues exemptions from tolerances for dibutyltin dilaurate, ethyl vinyl acetate, nitrile rubber modified acrylonitrile methylacrylate copolymers, polyethylene, polypropylene, and tetrafluoropolyethylene when used as ingredients in plastic ear tags and tail devices for ruminants and swine in pesticide formulations. p. 31694.

Elanco Products Co. and Janssen Pharmaceutical petition EPA on pesticide and food additive tolerances. p. 31756.

Rohm & Haas Co. petitions EPA on tolerances for residues of the herbicide oxyfluorfen and its metabolites. p. 31756.

EPA issues experimental use permits to 12 companies. p. 31758.

Comments are solicited by EPA on the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' request to use the unregistered insecticide avermectin B to control spider mites, leafminers and aphids on 2,837 acres. Comments should be sent by Sept. 7 to Information Services Section, Program Management and Support Division, Office of Pesticide Programs, EPA, 401 M St., S.W., Washington, D.C. 20460. p. 31758.

EPA issues experimental use permits to six companies. p. 31759.

Specific exemptions for the control of various pests are grants by EPA to 17 states, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. p. 31760.

MONS 019549

MASS. DPH UNDERTAKES $980,000 STUDY OF PCB CONTAMINATION

In an effort to determine the short- and long-term health effects of human exposure to polychlorinated biphenyls, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health is undertaking a three-year, $980,000 study of the effects of PCB contamination in an urban environment.

Funded by the Environmental Protection Agency, the DPH study is the first community-wide study of the effects of PCB contamination in an urban environment, according to Dayton Miller, project officer with the Centers for Disease Control. DPH Commissioner Bailus Walker said that the study will focus on the long-term effects of PCB, about which "little is known." CDC estimates that 99% of all Americans have some level of PCB in their blood.

In the first phase of the study, Massachusetts officials will survey 1,800 residents of New Bedford, Fairhaven, Dartmouth and Acushnet. These communities surround the Acushnet River and New Bedford Harbor, both of which contain high levels of PCBs. Data collected in phase I will be used to determine the extent of PCB contamination in residents as well as their exposure to other chemical contaminants and heavy metals.

The second phase of the study will begin in the spring of 1986 with the selection of two study groups. One group will have PCB blood levels greater than 30 parts per billion, and the second group will have PCB blood levels less than 10 ppb. Participants will be matched for age, sex and ethnic background. The study will focus specifically on the effects of PCB on the liver, metabolic and immune systems, and neurological functions. A separate study will target the effects of PCB on children.

TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL ACT requirements are outlined in a new compliance and enforcement manual published by Government Institutes Inc. Originally prepared by the Environmental Protection Agency, the 498-page manual outlines TSCA monitoring procedures, compliance inspection procedures, enforcement actions and penalty procedures. Copies are available for $48 from GII, 966 Hungerford Dr., #24, Rockville, Md. 20850, (301) 251-9250. MMD

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