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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

Food and Drug Administration
Washington DC 20204

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Hacheen
Schmitt

Mr. Jeff Kempter
Office of Pesticides and Toxic Substances
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Mr. Kempter:

This is in reply to your letter of September 1, 1988 to Dr. Robert L. Martin in which you inquired if the use of chlorine gas to produce hypochlorous acid that is used in a fruit and vegetable wash, followed by a potable water rinse, is approved by FDA.

Use of chlorine gas for that purpose is included in our ongoing safety review of the regulatory status of chlorine. As the active ingredient is the same, whether from sodium hypochlorite or chlorine gas, we offer no objection, pending completion of our review, to the interchangeable use of chlorine gas for sodium hypochlorite under 21 CFR 173.315 when used in a manner consistent with good manufacturing practices, including following treatment with a potable water rinse.

We trust that this response is satisfactory. If you need additional assistance, please contact us again.

Sincerely yours,

Gerad L. McCowin
Director
Division of Food and Color Additives
Center for Food Safety
and Applied Nutrition

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