

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
 US ARMY NATICK RESEARCH and DEVELOPMENT COMMAND
 NATICK, MASSACHUSETTS 01760

25 January 1978

REPLY TO ATTENTION OF:
 DRXNM-YPB

Acting Associate Director
 for Special Projects
 Office of Pesticides Programs
 Registration Division (WH-567), Room 315
 Environmental Protection Agency
 East Tower 4th & M Streets, SW
 Washington, DC 20460

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to the telegraphic message from your office to this Command dated 7 June 1977 concerning an exemption granted pursuant to Section 18 of the amended Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act for the use of paranitrophenol (PNP) during the manufacture of various military leather articles for the protection of these articles from fungal decay. The specific exemption is to terminate either when the use of PNP becomes registered for use by the military or when a suitable alternative registered pesticide becomes available. In any event, this specific exemption expires on 16 June 1978.

Actions taken by the Army pertinent to the exemption are as follows:

- 1) Prior to receipt of your message, this Command filed a petition for registration of PNP on 4 May 1977, EPA File Symbol 40510-E. The petition followed required EPA format and included, among others, all toxicity and efficacy studies available to us. After review of our application, letters were received from the Pesticides Registration Division, EPA, dated 16 August 1977 and 30 September 1977 requesting additional data. Copies of these letters are attached (Incl 1 and 2).
- 2) In a letter dated 31 August 1977 (Incl 3) this Command petitioned the Surgeon General of the Army for his assistance in carrying out the various toxicity studies requested by EPA. The US Army Environmental Hygiene Agency (AEHA), in a letter dated 6 January 1978 (Incl 4) has provided us with an approximate schedule for completion

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of tests requested by EPA. Completion dates for all but subacute and long term dermal tests range from July 1978 to April 1979. For subacute and long term dermal studies cooperation is being requested from the National Cancer Institute (NCI) and testing is estimated to be for a four year period.

3) In a letter dated 3 October 1977 (Incl 5) EPA has been provided with a clear copy of wear tests AE40-440 along with additional analytical techniques as listed in the letter. Request for clear copy of the wear test had been made in referenced EPA letter of 16 August 1977.

4) Data pertinent to the EPA letter of 30 September 1977 re efficacy review are being gathered.

5) An aggressive program is being carried out in cooperation with industry to find alternative compounds that can be used in lieu of PNP. We are or have worked with the following companies who have fungicides bearing an EPA Registration Number for use in certain operations involved in the leather manufacturing process:

- a) Ottawa Chemical Co.
- b) Metal & Thermit Co.
- c) Rohm & Haas Co.
- d) Abbott Laboratories
- e) Hamblet & Hayes Co.

In addition, we are evaluating a non-registered compound from Stauffer Chemical Co. For the registered compounds there is a question as to whether the registration permits use of the fungicides in any operation of the leather manufacturing process or only for specific operations. Clarification of this issue is being sought by us from EPA. The ability of the various compounds to meet military requirements for leather items is also currently being determined.

From the foregoing it can be seen that we have mounted an extensive and good faith effort relative to registration of PNP and to the search for alternative compounds in compliance with the terms of the exemption as outlined in your message of 7 June 1977. However, new toxicity studies required by EPA for registration of PNP call for extended time periods of as much as four years and, therefore, cannot be completed by 16 June 1978. It is also problematical that alternative compounds meeting military requirements will be available by 16 June 1978 because of uncertainties that exist surrounding EPA definition of permissible uses of the compounds in the leather manufacturing process and failure of some of the registered compounds to meet military performance requirements. To be resolved is

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Acting Associate Director for Special Projects

the question whether registration in force for some of the compounds permits their use in all of the applicable steps carried out by the tannery in the leather manufacturing operation or is limited to specific aspects; i.e., soaking, pickling, tanning, retanning, coloring, fatliquoring and finishing steps, among others. If EPA judges that current registration for use of the various fungicides does not include application to the leather during any or all of the manufacturing steps noted above, then it is anticipated that registration to cover use of fungicides for all applicable steps will not be granted by EPA to petitioning companies by 16 June 1978.

Procurements, by the Department of Defense, for the period 1 October 1977 through 30 September 1978 are forecast to be 3.9 million pairs of footwear having a dollar value of \$60,000,000 and miscellaneous leather items having a value of \$1,000,000 for a total of \$61,000,000. Amount of PNP to be used during this period in treating the leather used for the various items is estimated to be 66,000 pounds. Forecasts for procurement of footwear and leather items beyond 30 September 1978 have not been made at this time.

Because it is not possible to complete all of the toxicity studies required by EPA for registration or provide registered alternative commercial compounds by 16 June 1978, we request at this time an extension of the exemption granted under Section 18 of the amended Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act for continued use of PNP during the manufacture of various military leather items. Extension is also requested at this time because of the necessity for advanced planning for large scale procurements, including technical, contractual and logistic aspects, and the adverse impact upon the military if leather items are not protected from fungal damage. We request that the exemption be extended from 16 June 1978 until such time as PNP is registered for use or when a suitable alternative registered pesticide becomes available.

Very truly yours,

5 Incl
As stated

DALE H. SIELING/cc
Technical Director

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CF:
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