

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY



BERKELEY • DAVIS • IRVINE • LOS ANGELES • RIVERSIDE • SAN DIEGO • SAN FRANCISCO

SANTA BARBARA • SANTA CRUZ

160

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
DEPARTMENT OF BIOMEDICAL AND  
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SCIENCES

EARL WARREN HALL  
BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA 94720

August 12, 1981

Christine Chaisson  
Hazard Evaluation Div.  
Office of Pesticide Programs  
Environmental Protection Agency  
401 M Street, S.W. (TS 769-C)  
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Chris:

Did you know that the WHO specification for carbaryl is "1-naphthyl methylcarbamate with provisional specifications for a content of 2-naphthyl methylcarbamate ( $\beta$ -carbaryl) of less than 0.05% (500 ppm) and for a content of 2-naphthol of less than 0.05% (500 ppm)"?

According to a tech sheet from Union Carbide's Woodbine Plant, the average content of 2-naphthyl N-methylcarbamate of Sevin carbaryl insecticide is an average of 0.01%, or 100 ppm (letter from T.H. Newman, attached).

As you know, many 2-substituted naphthyl compounds have been found to be potent carcinogens, the most notorious being 2-naphthylamine. I do not know if Union Carbide has ever tested their 2-isomer of Sevin (carbaryl) for possible carcinogenicity, but at least they should be asked to submit some data or information on the toxicity of their impurity.

I hope you will be able to convey this information to the Product Manager.

With kind regards,

Sincerely yours,

  
Gunter Zweig

Sent to CAG  
CJA