

Pesticides, Fungicides—

FDA: Package 'Poisons' Child-Resistant

The Food and Drug Administration announced plans to order that pesticides, fungicides and similar types of household "poisons" be packaged in child-resistant safety containers.

The regulation would include those products which have been found to be highly toxic by tests in laboratory animals as determined by regulations of the

Environmental Protection Agency.

EPA administers the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act which covers insecticides, rodenticides, nematocides, fungicides, herbicides, amphibian and reptile poisons or repellents, plant regulators, plant defoliants, and plant desiccants.

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Fungicides, Etc.-

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FDA injury studies show 8,602 ingestions of insecticides, rodenticides, and herbicides by children under five during a three-year period, 1968-1970. These accidental ingestions resulted in 583 hospitalizations and 40 deaths.

The proposed standards would apply to those products sold in packages of less than one gallon in the case of liquids and five pounds or less for non-liquid forms. Larger size packages are primarily for commercial use.

Special packaging would be required to pass child-resistant effectiveness tests of not less than 85 per cent of a group of 200 children without instruction and not less than 80 per cent after instruction.

In addition, 90 per cent of a test group of 100 adults must be able to open the package.

The regulation is being proposed by FDA under provisions of the Poison Prevention Packaging Act.

Other toxic substances already ordered to be marketed in safety packaging are aspirin, liquid furniture polish, liniments containing methyl salicylates, and controlled "abuse" drugs, such as the barbiturates.

Interested persons may submit comments to the Hearing Clerk, DHEW, Room 6-88, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, Md. 20852, within 60 days following publication in the September 14, 1972, issue of the FEDERAL REGISTER.