



APR 14 1989

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

*Hachens*  
*Schmitt*

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,

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