

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

DATE: December 26, 1978

SUBJECT: PP # 9E2145, Petition proposing an exemption from a tolerance for residues of the pesticide chemical gibberellic acid in or on all raw agricultural commodities. Caswell No. 467

FROM: John Doherty
Toxicology Branch

TO: C. Fletcher
Special Registrations Section

Part of the basis for requesting an exemption from a tolerance for gibberellic acid are that "in every case where residue determinations have been made, only negligible background residues, if any, have been found on the treated crops".

Because gibberellic acid promotes plant growth it is usually applied several weeks before harvest thus allowing time for degradative metabolism and dissipation. Moreover, gibberellic acid is a naturally occurring substance in most, if not all, plants. (from 5 to 100 ppb).

40 CFR 180.224 has set tolerances of 0.15 ppm in several raw agricultural commodities.

Recommendation

This petition should not be granted at this time.

Sufficient knowledge of the residues on all raw agricultural products is not yet known. Although no residues may be found on the samples tested, metabolism and dissipation of this chemical may be different in the various plants.

The metabolic fate of gibberellic acid in man and animals is not known.

TOXICOLOGY BRANCH defers to CHEMISTRY BRANCH the resolution of the problems related to residues in all agricultural products and the problem of the metabolic fate. TOXICOLOGY BRANCH may reconsider this negative decision at a later date.

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