

# Chemical!

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## CONSUMER PRODUCTS

The number of consumer products containing hexachlorophene increased day by day. Any one of the consumer products are likely not harmful, but combinations of them will result in so much skin absorption that hexachlorophene levels in a consumer's blood may approach those of brain damaged animals. Present evidence indicates that hexachlorophene intoxication is a reversible disease - that is, it will correct itself if the cause is removed.

Many products do not list hexachlorophene on the label. As long as a manufacturer does not make a medical claim about his product, he is not required by law to list the contents. Surprisingly, there is a very high content of hexachlorophene in feminine hygiene sprays, some as high as 90 percent of the non-volatile contents. The following is a partial list of products containing hexachlorophene as of February 1972 showing the percent content of hexachlorophene in those cases where the manufacturer claimed it on the label.

MAZON Medicated Shampoo .5 percent; pHisoDAN Shampoo 3.0; pHisoAc Cream .3; TEGRIN Medicated Shampoo For Psoriasis 1.0; Pernox Lathering Scrub Cleanser 1.0; BIO-CLEAR-HELENA RUBENSTEIN .12; Ice-o-derm medicated towelettes .125; Ice-o-derm medicated cleansing bar 1.0; Nixoderm Soap for hygienic skin care 2.0; Gamophen surgical Soap with hexachlorophene 2.0; pHisoHex Sudsing antibacterial skin

cleanser 3.0; Gillette Right Guard anti-perspirant .4; Ban Super Dry Anti-perspirant Spray Deodorant .1; Bravol Scrub Cleanser for Acne 1.0; Man-Power Super Dry Anti-Perspirant Deodorant 1.0; Barriere B.D.H. Silicone Skin Cream .2; FOSTEX Cream 1.0; acnomel antiseptic cream .25; acnomel antiseptic cake .25; PSOREX Cream .25; PSOREX Medicated Shampoo .1; COVER GIRL Medicated Liquid Make-up .44; COVER GIRL Medicated Liquid Make-up Super Sheer .5; COVER GIRL Medicated Pressed Powder .5; dial with at-7 Deodorant Beauty Soap; MENNEN pushbutton Deodorant; Desenex Medicated Soap; Medicated Silicare Protective Lotion For Hands And Body - Revlon; enden DANDRUFF Shampoo - Helene Curtis; Groom & Clean Hair Dressing; Ten-0-Six (1006) Lotion - Bonnie Bell; STRI-DEX Medicated Pads; MUM Cream Deodorant; Revlon Feminine Hygiene Spray; FDS Feminine Hygiene Deodorant Spray; PRISTEEN Feminine Hygiene Deodorant Spray; Secret Anti-Perspirant Deodorant Spray.

## CANADIAN POSITION ON HEXACHLOROPHENE

Information on the Canadian position on hexachlorophene was obtained in an interview on March 24, 1972 with Dr. R.W. Campbell, Assistant Programme Director of the Drug Advisory Bureau at the Department of Health and Welfare in Ottawa. According to Dr. Campbell, the Department of Health and Welfare will recommend to the House of Commons on 15 May 1972, that all products containing more than 0.75 percent hexachlorophene be added to Part I of Schedule F of the Food and Drugs Act. This means

that they will be available by prescription only.

When questioned about the fate of those products containing less than .75 percent hexachlorophene, Dr. Campbell said that "negotiations with manufacturers have indicated that most of them will take hexachlorophene out of their products completely." Those who do not do so will have to submit evidence based on their own research to the Food and Drug Directorate (F.D.D.) proving two things: Firstly, that the product is not harmful to humans, and Secondly, that hexachlorophene is an essential ingredient of the product - that is, it is included for a definite purpose.

Apparently the FDD itself does little research on specific products. Manufacturers carry out research on their own products and submit the results to the FDD for review. Hexachlorophene manufacturers have been submitting their recent research to the FDD, but Dr. Campbell was unwilling to release the results, saying that the studies had not been reviewed sufficiently yet.

In Canada, there exists a procedure called "drug notification", whereby any manufacturer making a medical claim about his product must submit a list of the drug's ingredients to the FDD. Therefore, if a particular chemical component becomes suspect, as is the case with hexachlorophene, a list of those drugs containing it is immediately at hand.

A cosmetic, as opposed to a drug, is considered to be a product that makes no medical claim as to its effect on the user. In the field of cosmetics, no such system of notification exists. It is pos-

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