

WORLD HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



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In reply please refer to: F6/180/12
Prière de rappeler la référence:



The Director-General of the World Health Organization presents his compliments and, pursuant to resolution WHA23.50 of the Twenty-third World Health Assembly on Health Hazards of Food Additives, has the honour to transmit information on food additives which he has received under provision (2) of that resolution.

... Enclosed is food additive information sheet No. 25. (The original communication from which this information is drawn is retained in the archives of WHO for consultation.)

Geneva, 20 November 1973

... ENCL: As mentioned

FIS/73.25



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HEALTH HAZARDS OF FOOD ADDITIVES

FOOD ADDITIVE INFORMATION No. 25
(Resolution WHA23.50)

20 November 1973

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

The Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration, USA, has informed the World Health Organization of a potential health hazard with nitrites and/or nitrates combined with spices in curing premixes.

"In June 1973, the Health Protection Branch, Department of National Health and Welfare, Canada, informed the Food and Drug Administration that it had discovered nitrosopiperidine and nitrosopyrrolidine at levels ranging between 2.5 and 56 parts per million (ppm) in certain curing premixes. These premixes combined spices with nitrites and/or nitrates and are subsequently stored for an appreciable period of time prior to use."

"The United States Department of Agriculture has now discovered nitrosamines at levels ranging from 5.6 parts per billion (ppb) to 48.5 ppb in unbuffered curing premixes containing spices and nitrites and/or nitrates marketed in the United States. Accordingly, the Commissioner has concluded that nitrites and/or nitrates are no longer generally recognized as safe when combined in unbuffered premixes with spices, and that such use constitutes a potential health hazard that justifies immediate action. The Commissioner is therefore promulgating, effective immediately, a notice that all such uses result in the nitrites and/or nitrates being classified as food additives for which no food additive regulation has been approved. Until such time as adequate scientific data are obtained to demonstrate the safety of such uses, such unbuffered curing premixes may not lawfully be used."