

FDA looking for tamper-proof packs

Since the deaths in Chicago in late September, caused by Tylenol capsules that had been refilled with cyanide, FDA and the major manufacturers of nonprescription drugs have been working together to review what packaging technology and machinery are available and how to most effectively protect the public from product tampering.

Accordingly, FDA published on November 5 uniform standards for nonprescription drug manufacturers to follow in providing tamper-resistant packaging for their products—effective within 90 days in many cases.

Manufacturers can choose among various techniques—seals, shrink bands and bubble or strip packs, for example—but would be required to highlight the barrier with a distinctive design that would be hard to duplicate. Each product will also have to predominantly display a label statement that the product should not be purchased or

used if the seal or barrier was not intact when the product was bought.

FDA Commissioner Arthur Hull Hayes, Jr., M.D., said the regulation "allows manufacturers flexibility as to which methods or tamper-resistant packaging will be used. We realize new methods are being developed all the time, and we want to encourage new protection methods."

"While it is virtually impossible to make any package tamper-proof, it is possible to manufacture packages in such a way that tampering is much more difficult and that if a product is tampered with, it can more easily be detected by a careful consumer," HHS Secretary Schweiker said. "That is the intent of this regulation."

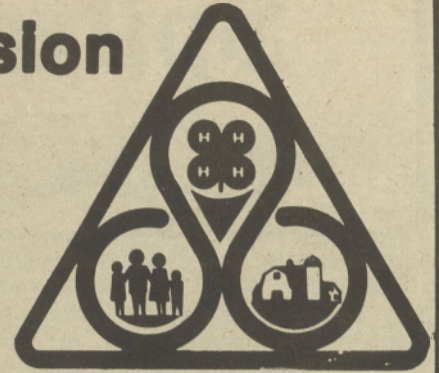
The regulation becomes effective in steps. Since February 7, 1983, tamper-resistant packaging has been required on most nonprescription capsule and liquid drugs (including eyedrops), except

topical dermatologic products. The new packaging was also required at that time on certain cosmetic products that may be susceptible to tampering, such as mouthwashes.

By May 5, 1983, tablets and suppositories—which are considered less susceptible to tampering—were requiring to have tamper-resistant packaging too. The delay is designed to ensure that the more susceptible products, such as liquids and capsules, have priority in obtaining the technology and machinery needed to make them secure.

Manufacturers had until May 5, 1983, to add the label statement and the distinctive design for barriers. This delay recognized the practical difficulties these features may pose, although some manufacturers may be able to beat the deadline by months. In 15 months from now the date this regulation was published in the Federal Register, no over-the-counter drug could be sold without tamper-resistant packaging.

Extension Notes



from Pennie Albrandt, Lee Hamilton and Doris Brackett

Be a sharp shopper when buying clothes

Be a sharp shopper when buying clothes by reading labels and examining workmanship before purchasing. Check fiber content. Fabrics are made of different fibers and blends with a wide variety of looks and textures. Read care instruction labels. Some garments must be drycleaned. However, most children's wear, casual clothing and some outerwear are washable. Many fabrics, including woolens, may be washable. The label indicates the method for washing and drying that assures good results.

Instructions tell whether to machine wash or hand wash; to use a regular, permanent press or gentle wash cycle; to tumble, line dry or dry flat.

Included are water and dryer temperatures. Use of bleach, recommendations to wash separately and iron temperatures are other points that instructions cover where applicable.

Many garments require little or no ironing particularly those made of synthetics, blends and cottons with special finishes. The need for ironing can be lessened advises the soap and detergent association by avoiding over-drying and

removing items from the dryer promptly at the end of the cycle. For line drying, smooth seams, collars, cuffs, plackets as clothing is being hung up.

If fabric content and type of care is suitable, then check workmanship. For good and long-lasting fit, the grain or yarn in the fabric should be straight up and down or across as it is worn. Examine patterned garments, especially plaids and stripes, to be sure that they match at center and side seams, pockets, sleeves and collars. Look at seams and hems. Are they smooth, wide enough and finished to prevent raveling or splitting? Is stitching uniform and straight with thread that matches the garment?

Reinforcement at points of strain is important particularly for garments that will get hard wear, such as active sportswear and children's clothing. Be sure closures and trim are firmly sewn on. Quality clothing has button-holes that are stitched firmly and evenly with reinforced ends. Not if buttonholes are the right length for buttons—either too long nor too short. Zippers should be flat, smoothly sewn and inconspicuous, except for novelty types meant for trim as well as function.

Counselors selected for 4-H camp June 20

Buffy Hurtado, Pixie Sanders and Mary Kay Leno were among nearly 25 would-be 4-H camp counselors from Jefferson and Deschutes Counties to attend a counselor training weekend May 21 and 22. All three have been selected to be counselors at Round Lake camp June 20-24.

The training weekend was held at a vacant home about ten miles west of Terrebonne. There was plenty of warm weather and sunshine (and a few sunburns) and everyone enjoyed themselves. There is still snow up at Round Lake although it is melting fast with the warm weather and should be gone before camp.

Some of the things covered during the weekend session were get acquainted games, the game scheduled, song leading, skits, storytelling, nature discovery, first aid at camp, rules for games, behavior problems and discipline, putting together a "counselor basket," and how to conduct the flag ceremony. There was plenty of time to try out some of the things that were taught

like how to fold the American flag and telling stories around the campfire.

One nature discovery idea participants tried was sitting alone for five minutes just listening to the sounds around them. Everyone was amazed that the five minutes passed so quickly and at how many sounds there were that people rarely take the time to listen for. At 4-H camp, counselors will have an hour each evening to plan nature discovery type activities for the six to eight campers in their cabins.

At the end of the training, each applicant was interviewed by the camp staff and the difficult task of selecting who was "in" and who was "out" began. One question asked was, "What part of the training did you like best?" "Learning ways to handle situations that might come up," was the most common answer.

Another interview question that some of the counselors were asked was, "Was this weekend worth missing the Prom for?" The answer was an unequivocal, "yes."

Aluminum windows need care

Aluminum storm windows do not need painting, but they do need occasional care to protect them from corrosion. Left alone, aluminum window frames will eventually develop a coat of white oxidation. They will become pitted and grimy-looking. Prevent this unsightly condition by scrubbing the

aluminum with a solution of detergent and warm water. Protect the clean frames with a coat of automobile wax.

If damage from oxidation and pitting is already extensive, scrubbing alone will hardly suffice. After cleaning the metal, apply an aluminum polish to remove excessive

oxidation. In cases of severe pitting, the only effective cleaning process is brisk rubbing with fine steel or bronze wool. Rub until the aluminum is reasonably smooth and bright. Then wash with detergent and warm water. Dry and immediately apply automobile wax.

When children move back home

Family Lifelines



Many adult children are returning home to live with their parents. Often this move is because an adult child is either unemployed or in the process of divorce and is experiencing financial problems. This return home will change the household expenses of the parents. One more person does make a difference. Anticipating the change in the parent's finances will help both the parents and the child plan and planning will minimize family conflicts.

Most household operation costs will increase with the addition of a person. The cost of fuel for hot water will be more hot water used for bathing and laundry. Utility costs will increase because there will be more food cooked and more lights used.

The long distance telephone bill often increases if the new household member either used to live out of town or is looking for work out of town. Before calls are made, decide who is paying for them. Devise a way

of keeping track of who makes which calls.

The increase in the family food bill will depend on how much and how well the new household member eats. According to the October 1982 USDA cost of food estimates, the food costs for a man between the ages of 20 and 54 eating all three meals at home ranges from about \$65 on a thrifty food plan to \$125 on a liberal plan per month.

While you are talking about food costs, also discuss meals. Sometimes, mothers expect to prepare three meals a day for the child just like she used to and the child is planning to eat at home only if she or he happens to be at home at mealtime. Sometimes the child expects that mother will prepare three meals a day just like she used to and the mother is planning to cook only if she happens to be home at mealtime.

Adding another person to the household will not increase the rent, but check your lease. If your lease specifies the maximum number of people who can live in the house or apartment, exceeding that number is a violation of the lease agreement and the landlord could cancel the lease.

If the new household member will be using the family car, notify your automobile insurance agent of the additional driver in the household. If the person is under 25 or has a poor driving

record, the cost of the insurance will increase. Determine who is paying for what automobile expenses.

The new household member should be aware that the worldly goods she or he is storing in mom and dad's basement and garage are most likely not covered by mom and dad's household insurance. A separate policy will be necessary, if insurance is desired on the child's property.

Talk about money arrangements. Be as specific as possible. How much money are the parents willing to contribute to help the child? Is this financial help viewed as a gift or a loan? How much money can the child contribute to the household? Is the child expected to help out with household tasks?

If the child is going to pay for his or her share of the household expenses, discuss what expenses are to be shared, how much is to be paid, and when the money is to be paid. As you discuss costs, know whether you are talking about marginal costs or average costs. Marginal cost is the amount by which expenses are increased when an additional person is added to the household. Average cost is the total household cost divided by the number of people in the household.

Talking about the family finances is not easy. But not talking will create misunderstandings and family conflicts.