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# EPA ISSUES RECALL/STOP SALES ORDER ON FOUR CHEMICAL STERILANTS

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), as of Friday, 3 December 1993, issued an immediate Stop Sales/ Use, or Removal Order on four chemical sterilants manufactured by Metrex Research Corp.of Parker, Colorado. Laboratory testing showed that these products failed efficacy tests for sterilants when used according to label directions (ten-hour immersion at 20 degrees Celsius). The fourproducts affected by this EPA action are: Metricide Activated Dial- dehyde Solution (EPA Reg. No. 46781-1), Metricide Plus 28 (EPA Reg. No. 46781-2), Metricide Plus 14 (EPA Reg. No. 46781-3), and Metricide Plus 30 (EPA Reg. No. 46781-4). All four Metricideproducts have glutaraldehyde as the active ingredient.

Anyone using any of these chemical sterilants to sterilize medicalor dental equipment should switch to another approved, EPA-registered chemical sterilant or use an alternative method forsterilization (e.g., steam sterilization). The choice of analternative method of sterilization will depend on several factors, including compatibility of the material(s) with the active ingredient in the alternate chemical sterilant, compatibility of the material(s) with the physical process used, processing time, and other conditions of use.

Four additional chemical sterilants which failed efficacy tests are: ABQ (EPA Reg. No. 45631-6) and Exspor (EPA Reg. No. 45631-3), both manufactured and registered by Alcide Corp.; Clidox-5 (EPA Reg. No. 8714-8), manufactured and registered by Pharmacal ResearchLaboratories; and Catylcide-G (EPA Reg. No. 31504), manufactured and registered by Catylite Industries. EPA is negotiating with the registrants of these products for voluntary agreements to limit the marketing of their products. EPA proposes the following allowance:

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#### EPA cont.

under an amended temporary registration, pending re-testing, these four sterilants would remain on the market for limited use as disinfectants in veterinary and animal research laboratories. These negotiations are expected to be finalized soon.



#### MEDICATION FOR THE INDIGENT

Many older Americans cannot afford the medications they need. But help may be only a phone call away. Many prescription drug manufacturers make their medications available free-of-charge to patients who do not have the means to pay for them. An information paper recently prepared by the staff of the U.S. Senate's Special Committee on Aging outlines the programs of drug manufacturers who provide this service. The Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Indigent Patient Programs directory lists information about each manufacturer, the medications covered under each program, the quantity of the product that can be obtained, and the eligibility requirements.

For more information, call the U.S. Senate Committee on Aging at (202)224-5364.

Source: State Rural Health Watch, Volume One, Number Three, July 1993.