

The Clorox Company  
Technical Center



FYI-94-000979  
INIT 08/30/94

FYI



August 16, 1994

**FYI-0794-000979**  
**Contains No CBI**

United States Environmental Protection Agency  
Document Processing Desk [6(a)(2)]  
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Room 266A, Crystal Mall 2  
1921 Jefferson Davis Highway  
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**SUBJECT: FIFRA Section 6(a)(2) Report**  
**Regular Clorox Bleach**  
**EPA Registration Number 5813-1**

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Dear Sir or Madam:

The following information is submitted in accordance with FIFRA Section 6(a)(2)

Submitter: The Clorox Company [Company Number 5813]  
P.O. Box 493  
Pleasanton, CA 94566

by: Fred A. Heitfeld  
Product Safety and Regulatory Compliance  
Clorox Technical Center  
P.O. Box 493  
Pleasanton, CA 94566

Transmittal Date: August 29, 1994

Product Name: Regular Clorox Bleach  
EPA Reg. No. 5813-1

Summary:

On August 9, 1994, I received a phone call from Mr. Henry Spiller, R.N. of the Kentucky Regional Poison Control Center requesting information on the sodium content of sodium hypochlorite bleach. In the course of the conversation, Mr. Spiller informed me that a 66 year old woman had committed suicide by ingesting an unknown sodium hypochlorite solution. It is unclear as to the exact volume, brand or strength of sodium hypochlorite solution ingested by the woman. The size of the bottle is unknown. Paramedics reported that the woman ingested "Clorox"; however, the exact brand cannot be confirmed since the original bottle was discarded after the incident and the name "Clorox" may have been used in a generic sense to describe sodium hypochlorite.

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Deaths from sodium hypochlorite ingestion are extremely rare. Clorox is reporting this incident because we are a manufacturer and distributor of sodium hypochlorite and death is considered reportable under FIFRA Section 6(a)(2); although we are not sure from Mr. Spiller's report if a Clorox product was involved.

Most accidental and intentional ingestions of sodium hypochlorite do not result in permanent injury or death and resolve without complication. In 1988, 1990, 1991, and 1992, the American Association of Poison Control Centers (AAPCC) reported no deaths due to ingestion of sodium hypochlorite. For perspective, AAPCC reported 14,467 ingestions of sodium hypochlorite in 1992 alone. The last reported consumer death by ingestion occurred in 1989 when an 85 year old female died of complications after intentionally ingesting an unknown quantity of sodium hypochlorite solution (AAPCC).

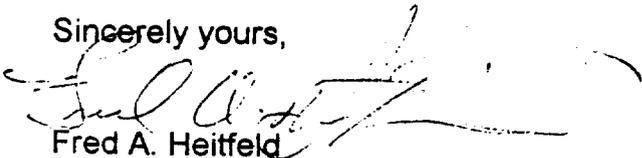
I obtained an oral case history of this incident from Mr. Spiller. On January 14, 1993, an unidentified 66 year old female intentionally ingested what was described as a half of a bottle of bleach in a suicide attempt. The woman was taken to the emergency room by paramedics. Her blood sodium levels were 169 milliequivalents per liter and blood chloride levels were 143 milliequivalents per liter. She was reportedly incoherent. Her hematocrit was 45 on arrival but dropped to 33 after several hours. Approximately 2.5 hours after admission, the woman expired in the intensive care unit of the hospital. Mr. Spiller believes that death occurred sometime within 5 hours after ingestion.

The cause of death was apparently hemorrhage due to the rupture at the stomach/esophageal junction. Mr. Spiller reports that there was no evidence of lung damage due to aspiration of stomach contents. An unidentified colorimetric assay was used to identify sodium hypochlorite in the stomach contents.

No claim of confidentiality is made for the information contained in this submission.

If you have any questions, I can be reached a (510) 847-6605.

Sincerely yours,

  
Fred A. Heitfeld  
Senior Scientist

cc. TSCA Section 8(e) Coordinator  
Document Processing Center (TS-790)  
Office of Toxic Substances  
United States Environmental Protection Agency  
401 M Street, S.W.  
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