



March 25, 1989

Food and Drug Administration  
Rockville MD 20857

John Farrell Kuhns  
Research Director  
AquaScience Research Group, Inc.  
1100 Gentry  
North Kansas City, MO 64116



Dear Mr. Kuhns:

We refer to your letter of May 2, 1989 pertaining to the use of sodium methanesulfonate (sodium formaldehydebisulfite) in the water of edible aquatic animals (i.e., lobsters, shrimp, oysters, clams, catfish, and trout). Sodium hydroxymethane sulfonate reacts with and detoxifies chlorine, ammonia, and chloramines.

The agency has determined that the use of sodium hydroxymethanesulfonate to remove chlorine, ammonia, and chloramines from water used to grow aquatic animal species does not fall under legal definition of a defined under Section 201(w) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act. Thus, this use of sodium hydroxymethanesulfonate would not be under FDA jurisdiction.

If any discharged water containing sodium hydroxymethanesulfonate enters either the local sewage system or free flowing waterways, it should be covered by a National Pollutants Discharge Elimination System permit, and in compliance with, local, State and Federal requirements.

If you have any questions, call the undersigned at 301/443-1414.

Sincerely yours,

for Donald A. Gable, D.V.M.  
Director, Division of Therapeutic  
Drugs for Food Animals  
New Animal Drug Evaluation  
Center for Veterinary Medicine