

#### WARNING AGAINST HUMAN CONSUMPTION OF HYDROGEN PEROXIDE

#### INTRODUCTION

Hydrogen peroxide has been/is being promoted as a “cure-all” by several small non-medical organizations. These organizations claim that hydrogen peroxide can cure a variety of ailments including cancer, AIDS, and arthritis. However, use of hydrogen peroxide for these purposes has resulted in deaths and serious injuries. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has not approved hydrogen peroxide for human consumption; therefore, the sale of hydrogen peroxide for this purpose is illegal. Solvay Chemicals, Inc., and all other hydrogen peroxide manufacturers, endorse the position of the FDA and will not supply hydrogen peroxide to anyone who condones the sale of hydrogen peroxide for consumption or who knowingly sells our product to those who do.

Food Grade hydrogen peroxide is manufactured to meet the hydrogen peroxide monograph outlined in the Food Chemical Codex. It is approved for a limited number of food processing applications by the FDA in 21 CFR. The ‘Food Grade’ designation in no way implies that the product is safe for consumption by humans.

The text of Health Canada and the Food and Drug Administration’s press releases of August 21, 2006, July 27, 2006 and April 13, 1989, concerning medicinal or therapeutic use of hydrogen peroxide follow. The press releases below may have been archived and the contact points listed within these press releases may have changed.

#### HEALTH CANADA PRESS RELEASE, AUGUST 2006

##### Health Canada Warns Against Drinking Hydrogen Peroxide for Medicinal Use

OTTAWA - Health Canada is warning consumers and patients not to drink products containing hydrogen peroxide for medicinal purposes because they can cause serious harm or death when ingested. Anyone who is currently using hydrogen peroxide in this manner should stop immediately and consult a health care provider.

Ingestion of hydrogen peroxide can cause serious harm or death, as well as irritation or ulcers in the stomach and intestines. Health Canada has not authorized any hydrogen peroxide product advertised to treat AIDS, cancer, emphysema or any other serious and life-threatening diseases. There are, however, several high-strength hydrogen peroxide products authorized for sale in Canada as disinfectants and as dental bleaching applications, which are health products for professional use only.

Health Canada advises Canadians to contact the Health Products and Food Branch Inspectorate at 1-800-267-9675 if they find any hydrogen peroxide product advertised in Canada to treat AIDS, cancer, emphysema or any other serious and life-threatening diseases. Consumers requiring more information about this advisory can contact Health Canada’s public enquiry line at (613) 957-2991, or toll free at 1-866-225-0709.

To date, no adverse reactions suspected to be associated with the ingestion of hydrogen peroxide have been reported to Health Canada. To report a suspected adverse reaction to this or any other health product, please contact the Canadian Adverse Drug Reaction Monitoring Program (CADRMP) of Health Canada by one of the following methods:

Telephone: 1-866-234-2345  
Facsimile: 1-866-678-6789

CADRMP  
Marketed Health Products Directorate  
Tunney’s Pasture, AL 0701C  
email: [cadrmpp@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:cadrmpp@hc-sc.gc.ca).

The CADRMP adverse reaction reporting form, including a version that can be completed and submitted online, is located on the MedEffect portal of the Health Canada Web site. Health Canada issues Public Warnings when there is



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### Technical Data Sheet

a high probability that the use of, or exposure to, a product will cause death or other serious adverse health effects, such that the public should stop using the product immediately.

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Media Inquiries:  
Renée Bergeron  
Health Canada  
(613) 957-2988

Public Inquiries:  
Health Canada  
(613) 957-2991  
1-866 225-0709

#### FDA PRESS RELEASE, JULY 2006

##### P06-106

Consumer Inquiries: 888-INFO-FDA  
July 27, 2006

#### **FDA Warns Consumers Against Drinking High-Strength Hydrogen Peroxide for Medicinal Use**

#### ***Ingestion Can Lead to Serious Health Risks and Death***

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is warning consumers not to purchase or to use high-strength hydrogen peroxide products, including a product marketed as "35 Percent Food Grade Hydrogen Peroxide," for medicinal purposes because they can cause serious harm or death when ingested. FDA recommends that consumers who are currently using high-strength hydrogen peroxide stop immediately and consult their health care provider.

FDA is working to stop companies selling high-strength hydrogen peroxide from making illegal medical claims about their products. These claims are illegal because these products do not have FDA approval and are therefore being sold illegally for medical indications without any proven clinical value. The products can instead cause significant harm. As part of these ongoing efforts, FDA today issued Warning Letters to two firms illegally selling "35 percent hydrogen peroxide" products on Web sites for the treatment of AIDS, cancers, emphysema, and other serious and life-threatening diseases. These Warning Letters are available on FDA's Web site, at <http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/wlcfm/recntfiles.cfm>.

"This concentration is not approved by FDA for any purpose," said Dr. Steven Galson, Director of FDA's Center for Drug Evaluation and Research. "No one has presented any evidence that hydrogen peroxide taken internally has any medical value. In fact, consuming hydrogen peroxide in the manner touted by these websites could lead to tragic results."

FDA has never approved high-strength hydrogen peroxide to be taken internally and considers hydrogen peroxide at 35 percent strength dangerous, even if handled according to the manufacturer's directions. This high-strength hydrogen peroxide – more than 10 times stronger than the solution used in over-the-counter drugs to disinfect minor cuts – is highly corrosive. Ingesting hydrogen peroxide can cause gastrointestinal irritation or ulceration. Intravenous (IV) administration of hydrogen peroxide can cause inflammation of the blood vessel at the injection site, gas embolisms (bubbles in blood vessels), and potentially life-threatening allergic reactions.

FDA previously warned consumers, in an April 1989 press release, about the illegal promotion of industrial-strength hydrogen peroxide to treat AIDS and cancer, following at least one related death in Texas and several injuries requiring hospitalization.

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[www.solvaychemicals.us](http://www.solvaychemicals.us)



#### FDA PRESS RELEASE, APRIL 1989

**P89 □ 18**

Food and Drug Administration  
April 13, 1989

The Food and Drug Administration warned today that industrial strength hydrogen peroxide illegally promoted to treat AIDS and cancer has caused at least one death in Texas and several injuries requiring hospitalization.

The products are sold as "35% Food Grade Hydrogen Peroxide" to be diluted and used in "Hyperoxygenation Therapy" for AIDS, cancer, and more than 60 other conditions. FDA said there is no proof that either the product or the therapy has any medicinal value.

Further, the agency said, this concentration -- more than ten times as strong as the 3 percent solution commonly used to disinfect minor cuts -- is highly corrosive. FDA considers it dangerous even if it is handled according to the manufacturer's directions.

"This concentration is not approved by FDA for any therapeutic purpose," FDA Commissioner Frank E. Young, M.D., Ph.D., said. "Indeed, no one has come forward with any evidence this substance taken internally has any medicinal value. Buyers are being cheated and subjected to significant risks and family members are being injured."

The liquid is purchased in bulk from chemical plants in Texas and Mexico, and repackaged into smaller containers by distributors. Stored in home refrigerators according to the manufacturer's instruction, the corrosive chemical has been mistaken for water and consumed.

FDA in February, while trying to halt the distribution of 35% hydrogen peroxide by a distributor operating in Brownsville, Texas, learned of two incidents that occurred last year. In August, a four-year-old girl (in Dennison, Texas), poured a drink for her two brothers from a quart bottle that she mistook for water. The resulting injuries required more than six months of medical care and cost thousands of dollars in expense. Then in September in Conroe, Texas, a mother poured what she thought was water from a bottle in her refrigerator for her two children and a neighbor's child. Her children were severely injured and the neighbor's child died after drinking the liquid.

The agency said the products, sometimes called "Biowater" and "H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>," are promoted as an "alternative medicine" by mail-order distributors in Wisconsin, Minnesota, California, and Texas, and by some "health food" outlets. The concentrated liquid comes in pint, quart, and gallon containers with ordinary screw caps, or in some cases, with child-resistant caps.

Literature usually distributed with the product explains how to dilute the concentrated liquid for such unproved or unnecessary uses as sprouting seeds, purifying meat, cleansing laundry, and treating acne, gum disease, athlete's foot, colic, headache, varicose veins, AIDS and cancer.

Materials promoting the product often include printed pages resembling magazine articles along with alleged testimonials that blend various medical facts with fictitious claims and offer the view that hydrogen peroxide's benefits are suppressed by the medical establishment and the government.

The promotion of hydrogen peroxide as a home remedy has continued and has reappeared despite efforts of FDA beginning in 1985 to get distributors of 35 percent hydrogen peroxide to stop making the illegal claims. FDA is not aware of any medical benefits from consuming hydrogen peroxide in any form; no information or applications have been submitted to the agency to support any drug claims for taking this chemical internally.



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**Before using, read Safety Data Sheet (SDS) for this chemical.**

**Solvay Chemicals, Inc.  
24-hour Emergency Phone Number – 800-424-9300 (CHEMTREC®)**

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