

quality control program, and most companies have apparently done so. The cost of such a program has been estimated to be about 2.4 percent of sales for a large company, but may be somewhat more for a smaller firm.

On the other hand, not all companies have maintained adequate quality control, and their products have had to be recalled--either voluntarily or by government order--for such defects as mislabeling, subpotency, or contamination. These recalls have involved both large and small firms, and both brand name and generic name products.

Several hundred such violations are reported each year. Investigations have often indicated that these are related to the failure of a manufacturer to comply with what are known as Good Manufacturing Practices, including such factors as plant sanitation, personnel surveillance, equipment maintenance, raw material standards, record keeping, and quality checks at every appropriate stage of manufacture and packaging.

The Task Force believes that this situation may be substantially improved by the intensified inspection program now being developed by the Food and Drug