Monsanto

FROM (NAME & LOCATION) Dept. of Medicine & Environmental Health Jack T. Garrett

DATE: January 25, 1977

cc: Margaret Abbott
J. G. Laveglia

SUBJECT: Aroclor Material Safety Data Sheets

REFERENCE:

TO J. C. Weber - B2SK

In fires such as low temperature grass or paper fires in storage areas where Aroclor is stored, anything from the product itself in the vapor form to its complete oxidation products could be released (CO_2, HCL and chlorine). More intense fires can release virtually anything which brings up the question of what do you put on a Form 20 data sheet in connection with combustion products.

We have tried to limit this to those materials that we felt would be very toxic or irritating because no fire is a normal fire. Most fires start slowly and build up to very high temperatures. Aroclor products under such impetus will give off everything from vaporized Aroclor to the final oxidation products. It is difficult to limit the materials that could be given off in an increasing temperature fire in the short space provided.

Our experience with a warehouse fire in California indicates that the most serious hazard is probably the vaporized Aroclor itself. In extremely intense fires, the most serious by-product probably is HCL and chlorine. In most of the combustion products statements to date, we have assumed that the vaporized product would be present and have not included it on the list of combustion products.

In the case of the Aroclors, we might say the following - "Vaporized product CO, CO_2, HCL, CL_2 and intermediate organic chlorinated fragments." I don't know whether the inclusion of such a statement would improve the Aroclor data sheets.

Jack

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