



INTER-ORGANIZATION MEMO

MAY 21 1969

TO: Akron

ATTENTION: Mr. R. W. Laundrie

FROM: Mr. M. G. Glenn

DATE: May 19, 1969

SUBJECT: Epidemiologic Study of the
PVC Industry

A meeting was held May 6, 1969, at the University Club in Washington, D. C., to discuss the University of Michigan's Report pertaining to Epidemiological Investigation of the PVC Industry in Reference to Occupational Acroosteolysis. Attendance to this meeting was good as far as representation of involved PVC producers. There were 23 people present and 19 of the 24 manufacturers represented. Minutes of the meeting and an attendance report will be issued by the MCA Secretary.

Based upon a review of the report and information gained from the meeting, I have the following recommendations:

1. The Epidemiologic Study of Occupational Acroosteolysis should be continued with MIT as the neutral coordinator and financed by the plastics industry. General Tire should be a participant.
2. Reactor cleaning must be converted from the manual hand cleaning to either water or solvent cleaning. Water cleaning is the preferred method and probably the cheapest.
3. An annual X-ray program for General Tire personnel who are active cases of AOL and those who have Raynaud's Phenomenon must be continued. The AOL cases are D. Cleveland and R. Higley. Raynaud's Phenomenon case is P. Rustic. Personnel with possible case of AOL but with negative X-ray findings are H. Truax, W. Price and J. Blank.
4. MVC vapor remaining in purged reactors that are open for cleaning must be established at 50 PPM. Equipment capable of checking MVC vapor at this level must be purchased.
5. The six (6) plants who have active cases of AOL should be contacted and a working committee established so that more detailed discussions can be held in regard to obtaining more information on the working history of the 25 active Industries' AOL cases.

A review of the University of Michigan's Report was made by Dr. Magnuson and his two (2) cohorts. Upon their interpretation of the data obtained, it was a general consensus of opinion, University of Michigan, Goodyear, and Goodrich, that people who have Raynaud's Phenomenon are highly susceptible to developing AOL. There is an indication that AOL development is predicated upon an approximate year's time lapse after Raynaud's Phenomenon. There is also some indication from PVC producers outside the United States, that other parts of the body are also affected. Bill McCormick of B. F. Goodrich reports other joints such as ankles, knees, and wrists should be X-rayed if a person has a serious case of AOL.

Findings of the University of Michigan's report are not 100% conclusive but their information is adequate enough to show that compounding plants are free from AOL involvement. A conclusion was also drawn that PVC granules shipped to fabricating plants have no effect on the personnel handling the resin. Please find attached an itemized list of notes taken from the meeting.

M. G. Glenn

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MEG/ikb