

Manufacturing Chemists' Association, Inc.

(FOUNDED 1872)

1825 Connecticut Avenue, N. W.

WASHINGTON 9, D. C.

No

PLASTICS COMMITTEE MEETING
The Chemists' Club, New York City
August 9, 1960

PRESENT:

Messrs. T. J. Kinsella, Allied Chemical Corporation
Walter H. Salzenberg, E. I. du Pont de Nemours & Co.
Martin Buck, Shell Chemical Company
Earle S. Ebers, United States Rubber Company
W. C. Goggin, The Dow Chemical Company
K. J. Nelson, Enjay Chemical Company
J. C. Searer, Hooker Chemical Corporation
W. B. Humes (for R. K. Turner), Union Carbide
Plastics Company
David C. Williams, Eastman Chemical Products, Inc.
F. H. Carman, M.C.A.

Also: Robert W. Boggs, Chairman, SPI Public Relations Comm.
William T. Cruse, Executive Vice President, SPI
John W. Pool, Jr., Chairman, Oyster Harbors Arrange-
ments Committee
James G. Stranch, Chairman, U. L. Advisory Committee

Chairman Kinsella welcomed special guests, Mr. John W. Pool, Jr.,
Mr. James G. Stranch, Mr. William T. Cruse and Mr. Robert W. Boggs.

NATIONAL AUTOMOBILE SHOW

Messrs. Cruse and Boggs reported on plans under way for the De-
troit show October 15-23, 1960 -- particularly participation by the
plastics industry. Since this had not yet been reported to the member-
ship, a special memorandum to MCA member Executive Representatives
covering this subject has been circulated, as per the attached
Appendix A.

UNDERWRITERS' LABORATORIES

Industry members of the U/L Advisory Committee met with repre-
sentatives of the National Electric Manufacturers Association on June 14
in connection with the rulings of the U/L on the September 1, 1961
deadline requiring flame resisting materials in air conditioners.
Following a regular meeting of the U/L Advisory Committee for the Proj-
ect with the Laboratories' representative on June 29, and at the di-
rection of that Committee, a letter had been addressed to Mr. G. H.
Pope, Managing Engineer of the Casualty and Automotive Department of
the U/L requesting reconsideration of their Bulletin 484. The Plastics
Committee was advised of this by Mr. D. C. Williams in a special memo-
randum of July 1, 1960.

CMA 078406

Mr. Stranch then reported on interpretation received from Mr. Pope and the bulletin dated July 6 on Subject 484, which was supposed to have clarified the problem. (Copy of this bulletin is attached as Appendix B.) Since this clarification did not appear satisfactory, further contacts by phone were made with the U/L engineer handling the MCA project. His verbal report was substantially

".....If the ignition sources are protected by a metal plate, slow-burning materials can be used anywhere in the air-conditioning unit. Further, the ignition source might be protected by self-extinguishing plastics...."

The above and other details were reported to MCA members in Item # 6 in General Bulletin No. 843 dated August 8, 1960.

In discussion, it was emphasized that a statement along these lines by the U/L in writing would be highly desirable to insure that their various divisions are using this interpretation in working with the appliance industry. However, it was pointed out that the test work on various materials is going forward and if it is found that the U/L is following this policy reported verbally for approval of designs used after September 1, 1961, several indicated reluctance to approach the U/L at this time for another statement in writing.

Accordingly, it was agreed that the Washington office would contact the NEMA representatives who raised this question, Messrs. W. G. Spiegelhalter and R. H. Meyerhans, to see if there are any recent developments in the application of the Underwriters' policy pertaining to air conditioner approvals.

HOUSEWARES FLAMMABILITY

Mr. Cruse, as a matter of general information, advised the Committee of recent contacts with authorities in the Twin Cities in connection with polyethylene waste baskets. The administrators of hospitals in that area were concerned with the hazards of these if involved in accidental fires and inability to extinguish the burning plastic with water. Pictures of burning waste baskets were exhibited. Loma Plastics, Inc. and Federal Tool Corporation had asked for assistance; material suppliers are investigating use of flame-retardant materials.

PLASTICS INSTITUTE

Minutes of the special meeting of the Plastics Committee on June 20 had been forwarded to Plastics Group Executive Representatives. Several had subsequently inquired on the action being taken by various companies. It was the general consensus that many were answering the research questionnaire, most of them stating that further research as proposed by the Institute program was not necessary; very few, if any, were answering the financial questionnaire. At this point Mr. Cruse distributed copies of their Bulletin # 770 of August 8, 1960, setting forth background information on the subject and the position of the SPI.

OYSTER HARBORS CONFERENCE

The Chairman of the Arrangements Committee reported that steps were under way to obtain speakers to handle subjects -- substantially those recommended by this Committee. An official of the State Department, Mr. Charles W. Adair, Jr., Deputy Assistant Secretary for Economic Affairs, has been invited to discuss world trade, European trading blocs, and general economic conditions on the first day; for the second day, Mr. Otto Horn, Farbwerke Hoechst, A.G., Frankfurt am Main, Germany, a consultant for one or more member companies, has been invited to discuss plastics in Europe, with particular emphasis on end uses rather than material production. It is expected Mr. Horn will be in the United States during September.

SOUTHWEST RESEARCH INSTITUTE REPORT

Time did not permit discussion of this fire safety report although the members would like to have further information on distribution of the report outside of the plastics industry. The point was made that it should be called to the attention of the Journal of Commerce, Wall Street Journal, and New York Times since these are important news media for this industry, the users of plastics, and insurance underwriters.

BUILDING PROGRAM

Discussion of Mr. Demarest's report included in this agenda was not possible. Two actions of the Plastics in Building Committee transmitted under date of July 11 pertaining to (1) distribution of SWRI Report, and (2) the program to prepare two complimentary primers, as recommended in this report, were accepted by the Committee.

MISCELLANEOUS

Mr. Cruse commented briefly on the value of Commercial Standards developed by SPI in behalf of the industry and promulgated by the Commodity Standards Division of the Department of Commerce, and on the recommendations of the "Kelly" Committee that this activity be taken over by private groups. Special SPI memoranda of June 29 and 30 on this subject were distributed. No action was taken by the Plastics Committee.

Interested member producers of vinyl acetate emulsions for food packaging have proposed that MCA file a petition with the FDA as provided in the food additives amendment. Such a step in the name of the Association was not recommended by the Food Additives Committee; MCA's Executive Committee concurred in that decision. The petition was subsequently filed by interested manufacturers as an Ad Hoc group.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 P. M.

Minutes Subject to Approval

Filed

August 12, 1960

F. H. Carman
F. H. Carman,
Secretary

CMA 078408

Appendix A

SPECIAL MEMORANDUM
TO
EXECUTIVE REPRESENTATIVES OF PLASTICS GROUP

SUBJECT: Plastics Exhibit,
National Automobile Show

In our Plastics Committee meeting of August 9 Mr. Cruse of The Society of the Plastics Industry, Inc. advised of plans under way for October 15-23 show to be held in Detroit's new exhibition facility, Cobo Hall. This is the first national automobile show to be held in Detroit. In a June 1 initial meeting of industries supporting the automotive field, important suppliers of materials and components were invited to participate in the industrial exhibition which will be on the lower floor of the hall; exhibits are to be of the educational and institutional type without listing of trade names or identification of specific items by manufacturers' name. The Automobile Manufacturers Association, Inc. has approached industry groups such as steel, rubber, aluminum, plastics, glass, textiles, plating and protective coatings, leather, chemicals and adhesives, to participate in the industrial exhibit.

Pertinent points considered in the Detroit meeting of June 1 (various industry association representatives were present) and that held June 22 (SPI National Automobile Show meeting) were reported in detail. Resolutions voted in the latter meeting, by secret ballot, and approved 17 yes and 4 no, were:

BE IT RESOLVED that it is the recommendation of the plastics manufacturers present at this meeting that the SPI accept the invitation of the Automobile Manufacturers Association to participate in the National Auto Show next October.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that the Chairman of the SPI Public Relations Committee be authorized to appoint a committee to prepare an appropriate display in the "Auto Wonderland".

BE IT STILL FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chairman of the SPI Public Relations Committee be authorized to appoint a committee to solicit participation and financial support for the project from companies doing business with the automobile industry. Both committees are to report back to the overall committee at its next meeting.

Since that meeting, a Display Committee under the chairmanship of Mr. Harold G. Brown of E. I. du Pont de Nemours & Company, and a Support Solicitation Committee under the chairmanship of Mr. John O'Connell, Consolidated Molded Products, have been organized; a commitment for exhibit space has been made; and, an exhibit design has been prepared by Gardner Displays.

CMA 078409

The industrial exhibit, "Auto Wonderland", will include that of the plastics industry for which 1,500 square feet has been allocated. The theme for the plastics exhibit is to be "Plastics -- the Automotive Industry's Most Versatile Engineering Material". The exhibit will include a wire mock-up of a car showing plastic items currently being used; identification will be by the generic name of the material, etc.

Financing required for the exhibit is estimated at \$40,000 to \$50,000, total budget. This is tentatively broken down as follows:

\$ 7,500	- space rent (already committed)
20,000 - \$25,000	- construction and maintenance of display
\$ 7,500 - \$17,500	- insurance, literature, manning the display, and contingencies

SPI will endeavor to obtain financing for this project from companies in the plastics industry doing business with the automotive industry. On this point, several plastics representatives on August 9 urged that this solicitation not be restricted to SPI members since substantial support should be forthcoming from non-members supplying plastic products. Mr. Cruse reported that plans are going forward to solicit support from member fabricators supplying the automotive industry and it is hoped that this can be concluded shortly after Labor Day; they are aiming for one-half of the funds from that group. The Support Solicitation Committee will then contact the material suppliers to obtain the balance of the financing. No plan of assessment has yet been finalized.

Other than as noted above, the Plastics Committee took no action nor made any recommendation on this undertaking, and this is being called to your attention for general information at this time.

FHC:ew

F. H. Carman
F. H. Carman

August 11, 1960

CMA 078410

UNDERWRITERS' LABORATORIES, INC.

Chicago 11, Illinois

Subject 484

July 6, 1960

BULLETIN

TO: Casualty and Electrical Councils of Underwriters' Laboratories, Inc. and Listees of Room Air Conditioners.

We have inquiries from manufacturers who want to know how "slow-burning" grilles or decorative fronts for room air-conditioners may be continued in use after September 1, 1961.

Our earlier bulletins indicated this would be possible where other combustible materials are not used on the interior of the equipment and the grille is located away from the electrical system.

Electrical wiring system safeguards would also permit the use of "slow-burning" material for grilles as well as other internal parts after September 1, 1961. Suitable wiring raceways and adequate electrical enclosures which safely confine ignition sources provide such safeguards.

GHP:KW

/S/ G. H. POPE
Managing Engineer, Casualty
and Automotive Department