News

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MONSANTO FURTHER
RESTRICTS PCB SALES

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 00 -- Monsanto Company announced today it has further restricted the sale of polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) containing products by discontinuing sales of Therminol FR (fire-resistant) heat-transfer fluids. Although the action is effective immediately, it will be several months before all Therminol FR customers can be converted to alternate products.

The company previously had discontinued sales of PCB-containing fluids to food and animal feed heat-transfer applications. Sales to "open-system" uses such as paints, plasticizers, sealants, adhesives and duplicating paper have also been voluntarily terminated by the company.

Some studies have shown PCB is a persistent chemical which builds up in the environment.

Therminol FR heat-transfer fluids are used in closed, recirculating systems in ~~critical~~ industries such as chemical and petroleum processing where fire prevention is ~~of primary importance~~ an important factor.

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C. P. Cunningham, managing director of Monsanto Industrial Chemicals Co., said, "This action was taken because of the problems which may arise should there occur accidental leakage from heat-transfer systems. Many of our Therminol FR customers, realizing the possible environmental problem, have already converted their systems to other Monsanto products which do not contain PCBs".

Sales to sealed electrical equipment for use in the company executive said, "until equally safe, nonflammable substitutes, are developed." Many state and local laws require the use of nonflammable fluids in transformers and capacitors to minimize the danger of explosion and fire.

"With these further restrictions on the sale of PCB, those monitoring this environmental issue will see continuing declines of PCB entering the environment, and public concern about its presence there should be diminished," Cunningham said.

As part of Monsanto's close-out of this product line, the company will credit customers for the full purchase price of any unused Therminol FR fluids, in unopened drums, returned before March 1, 1972. Freight costs will be paid on any used material drained from the customers' equipment and returned to Monsanto for safe disposal. And the company has organized a team of experienced engineers to offer free technical advice to customers who convert to other heat-transfer products

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Cunningham concluded, "Although Monsanto's voluntary actions to curb the uses and escape of PCB are important, these actions alone will not solve the problem of PCB in the environment since other producers, worldwide, have not yet committed to such action."

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