

PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT 53 5-21-98

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Gentlemen:

Attached is a Question and Answer list for responding to PCB inquiries which I offered to mail to you at our December 10th ANSI C-107 meeting.

I recognize that the list is not complete but I hope it will serve as a good start with further additions made by your respective committees. Should any help be required from Monsanto in responding to additional questions, please let me know.

Sincerely,

W. B. Papageorge
Manager, Environmental
Protection

/hg

attachment

ADM 007421

cc: Messrs: A. M. Salazar - NEMA
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EXHIBIT B

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Questions and Answers For ANSI
PCB

1. Question

What is PCB?

Answer

PCB are initials which stand for polychlorinated biphenyl. PCB is a family of chlorinated hydrocarbons which have long been used as a fire-resistant safety fluid in electrical components.

2. Question

Is PCB in Askarel?

Answer

Askarel is a generic name for the PCB-containing fluids used in electrical transformers and capacitors. Individual electrical equipment manufacturers have different trade names which describe their specific fluid.

3. Question

Explain the current environmental flap over PCB.

Answer

In the mid-60's, scientific instruments became sophisticated to the point where parts-per-million or even parts-per-billion of a substance could be detected in the environment.

Swedish scientists, looking for DDT, encountered "interferring substances" in their laboratory analyses. These substances they identified as PCB.

Subsequently other scientists in other parts of the world looked for and found PCB in a variety of samples; thus leading to the conclusion that PCB exists in the worldwide environment.

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4. Question

How does PCB get into the environment?

Answer

Probably through improper handling, use and disposal. A frequently cited accident occurred in Japan in 1968 when PCB leaked into rice oil which the Japanese use for cooking. Levels in the oil reached 7,000 to 3,000 parts-per-million.

However, it should be emphasized that when properly handled, used and disposed of, PCB can be as safe to use as any other chemical -- many of which are much more dangerous than PCB.

5. Question

Is PCB toxic?

Answer

Toxicity is a relative term. Some studies have shown it is toxic to certain species of birds and fish. More important, PCB is a persistent chemical which builds up in the environment. It, therefore, should not be allowed to escape to the environment.

6. Question

Does PCB cause birth defects?

Answer

Again, some studies have shown it can be detrimental to the reproductive cycles of certain species of wildlife.

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7. Question

Is the public in any immediate danger?

Answer

The Federal Government at a press conference in September, 1971, stated emphatically that the public was in no danger from present levels of PCB now in the environment. They said proper steps were being taken to reduce further escape of PCB which would ultimately reduce even the low levels currently being found in the environment.

8. Question

How can PCB be disposed of?

Answer

Under high temperature, controlled incineration, PCB breakr down into hydrochloric acid, carbon dioxide and water. There are three commercial incinerators in the United States which can handle disposal of used fluids. Contact your supplier for information about returning used fluids for proper disposal.

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