

Monsanto Chemical Company
Texas City, Texas

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March 24, 1955

To: A. R. Baker

Subject: VCM Tank Car Analyses

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Beginning April 15 please discontinue the analyses of VCM tank cars for Acetylene, Acidity, High Boiling Liquid Impurities, Sulfur Dioxide and Phenol. In the case of phenol please use a simple qualitative method of weathering a sample and noting the presence of phenol by odor.

The quantitative method for the phenol determination is always in error due to sampling and can only be improved by expensive sampling methods. For some time the certifications have listed phenol as "70 ppm added" and the actual sample results have been discarded as being erroneous. A considerably cheaper qualitative test (by odor) would verify the presence of phenol and be as useful as the present method.

In the case of the other tests referred to above, each VCM run-down tank is analyzed for these and the rundown is not approved for loading unless specifications in these tests are met. To analyze the tank cars merely duplicates these tests on compounds which have been unvarying and always well within specification.

The other VCM tank car specifications of Appearance, Aldehydes, Iron and Poly Rate should continue to be analyzed for and reported in the certificate of quality. Phenol should continue to be reported as "70 ppm added".

C. L. Gilmore
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