

Manufacturing Chemists Association
TECHNICAL MEETING ON THERMAL DECOMPOSITION PRODUCTS
OF
POLYVINYL CHLORIDE FILMS

DuPont Plaza Hotel

Washington, D. C.

March 6, 1974

RECORD OF MEETING

PRESENT:

Paul Beebe, Jr.	The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company
Bell Boyne	Borden Chemical Division of Borden, Inc.
R. T. Bucsko	Tenneco Chemicals, Inc.
R. K. Burkhart	Reynolds Metals Company
A. S. Cummin	Borden, Inc.
A. S. D'Amato	Borden, Inc.
T. M. Finnegan	Filmco
L. E. Ice	Diamond Shamrock Corporation
D. G. James	Borden Chemical Division of Borden, Inc.
B. O. Krueger	Borden Chemical Division of Borden, Inc.
R. C. Parsons	Reynolds Metals Company
W. E. Rinehart	Ethyl Corporation
M. F. Saggese	Tenneco Chemicals, Inc.
Delbert Volchko	Filmco
P. L. Wright	Monsanto Company
K. D. Johnson	MCA Staff

The first matter considered by the attendees was health effects research, and this topic was first discussed by Dr. Witorsch, of the George Washington University School of Medicine, who attended as a consultant to Borden, Inc.

Dr. Witorsch discussed the technical and credibility problems associated with the design, conduct, and reporting of epidemiological studies, particularly as they related to problems such as that under consideration by the committee, where

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health effects are likely to be subtle and of a kind prevalent in the background experience of the population at risk. The selection of a valid control group, differing from the study cohort only in the matter of exposure to the fumes from thermal decomposition of PVC film, was recognized as a vital, and difficult, decision.

He suggested that, to be meaningful, the study would need to include 400 to 600 subjects, including the control group. He also recommended that, to achieve maximum credibility, a well-regarded university source be retained for the design and conduct of the study. He estimated that about \$100,000, and not less than three to six months, would be required to complete such a study.

It was the consensus of the group to proceed with investigation of an epidemiological/clinical study of an appropriate segment of the meat-wrappers in the retail trades. Mr. Timothy M. Finnegan and Dr. A. S. Cummin were requested to develop

- (1) a list of proposed grantees for the epidemiological study
- (2) a "Request for Proposal" draft
- (3) a "Statement of Work" outlining the goals of the proposed study.

After a general discussion of the current state of knowledge concerning the thermal decomposition products of PVC films of the kind used for meat wrapping, Messrs. R. K. Burkhart, Paul Beebe, Jr., B. O. Krueger, and Delbert Volchko were requested to review physico-chemical studies of film decomposition. Their assignment includes

- (1) a compilation of available data relating to the qualitative and quantitative composition of the decomposition products of PVC films, as these are related to the composition of the film and the temperature and ambient conditions of the decomposition;
- (2) an evaluation of the range of variables in commercially important varieties of meat-wrapping films, and a recommendation as to the kinds of film proposed to be subjected to laboratory study;

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