

Manufacturing Chemists' Association, Inc.

(FOUNDED 1873)

1825 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20009

Report of

Meeting - October 6, 1966
PVC Resin Producers and
Occupational Health Committee
Cleveland Engineering Society
Cleveland, Ohio

PRESENT:

PVC Resin Producers

Allied Chemical Corporation	Dr. G. B. Linden, Dir. of Operations B. A. Hallam, Mgr. of Safety, Plastics Div.
*Atlantic Tubing & Rubber Co.	Dan Carberry, Asst. Mgr., Chemicals Div. Glenn D. Smith, Ex. Dir. of Engineering
Borden Chemical Company	Nathan Blackman, Tech. Supt., PVC. Dept.
Cumberland Chemical Corp.	Dr. P. W. Townsend, Asst. to Group V. P. J. A. Bourque, Jr., Asst. Dir., Safety Dept.
Diamond Alkali Company	J. R. Dogenfelder, Production Mgr.
Dow Chemical Company	Dr. H. L. Gordon, Corporate Med. Dir. Earl R. Smith, Mgr., PVC Mfg. Facilities
Ethyl Corporation	Dr. Sidney Lerner, Med. Dir. (?)
Firestone Plastics Company	C. J. Kleinert, Prod. & Tech. Mgr., Chem. Div.
General Tire & Rubber Co.	Phillip R. Sayre, Tech. Mgr., Strd. Products George Burkhardt, Corporate Safety Dir.
B. F. Goodrich Chemical Co.	Thomas B. Nantz, President A. Vittone, V. P., Mfg.
B. F. Goodrich Company	Harry B. Warner, Group V. P. Wade Miller, V. P. Dr. Rex H. Wilson, Med. Dir.
Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co.	William McCormick, Toxicologist, Med. Dept. F. A. Cox, Mgr., Niagara Falls Plant Dr. C. A. Johnson, Med. Dir.
*Great Amer. Chemical Corp.	Albert W. Fuhrman, V. P., Chemical Div.
Hooker Chemical Corp.	Jerome Wilkenfeld, Mgr., Environmental Health
Pantasote Company	John E. Ertel, V. P., Production
Shawinigan Chemicals Ltd.	Dr. R. H. Stevenson, Medical Officer M. G. Lemire, Process Supervisor
Stauffer Chemical Company	Don Hunter, Tech. Service Mgr., Polymers
Tenneco Manufacturing Co.	Elwood W. Phares, Ex. V. P. Robert R. Bouffard, Mgr., Div. Quality Control
*Thompson-Apex Company	Gordon F. Ferguson, V. P., Carbon Products Div., Cont. Oil Co. H. Malin
Union Carbide Corporation	Dr. C. U. Dernehl, Assoc. Med. Dir.
U. S. Rubber Company	R. N. Wheeler, Jr., Production Mgr. C. B. Westhoff, Tech. Supt. Dr. J. H. Wolfsie, Corp. Med. Dir., Industrial Relations Dept.

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*non-member company

Occupational Health Committee

W. L. Sutton, M.D. (Chairman), Eastman Kodak Company
U. Dernehl, M.D., Union Carbide Corporation (also listed above)
E. M. Dixon, M.D., Celanese Corporation
L. C. Haslam, M.D., Canadian Industries Limited
Gordon J. Stopps, M.D., E. I. du Pont de Nemours & Company
J. H. Wolfsie, M.D., United States Rubber Company (also listed above)

MCA Staff

F. H. Carman, Technical Director
F. G. Stephenson, Secretary, Occupational Health Committee

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The discussion was opened by Dr. W. L. Sutton, Chairman of the Occupational Health Committee, giving a brief explanation of the reason for the meeting and plans for the morning session. F. H. Carman, Technical Director, briefly covered the MCA General Principles Applicable to the Structure and Operations of Committees and the conduct of such meetings when concerned with single-class products, such as polyvinyl chloride resins (PVC).

Following introductions, Chairman Sutton invited Dr. Rex H. Wilson, Medical Director, The B. F. Goodrich Company, to report on the hand condition of some workers in PVC manufacture and the investigations of the problem within that organization. This included some X-ray slides of hands of workers in certain PVC manufacturing operations.

Dr. Wilson then introduced William McCormick, toxicologist in the medical department of The B. F. Goodrich Company, who gave a history of the symptoms and discussed steps taken to obtain further information on the cause, possible hazards in manufacturing operations, and their intensive investigation, including diagnosis of hand ailments by X-ray examinations.

Various questions were raised during the discussion period, which included a free exchange of ideas as to the incidents of this occurrence in manufacture and steps that may be appropriate for further investigation and elimination of any hazard. It was also stressed that expert examination of X-rays was the only real clue to the existence of the disease in the hands of workers which to date appears to be found mainly among "poly-cleaners" (persons engaged in internal cleaning of PVC polymerization vessels or autoclaves). Experts on The B. F. Goodrich Company staff are prepared to assist other PVC manufacturers by reading and reporting on X-rays that may be submitted. Chairman Sutton expressed appreciation for this offer of assistance, and in closing the meeting stated that the Occupational Health Committee would consider steps that might be possible on behalf of the industry in their meeting which was to follow that afternoon.

Subsequently, the Occupational Health Committee, following a full discussion of this medical problem, recommended certain steps to the Executive Committee of the Association as contained in the attached resolution dated October 7, 1966. The above-mentioned resolution was reported to the Executive Committee in its regular meeting October 11, 1966; and the problem was briefly discussed by Harry B. Warner, Vice President of the B. F. Goodrich Company. On his recommendation, the Executive Committee unanimously voted that the Occupational Health Committee should proceed with development of the program as set forth in parts 1, 2, and 3, of the resolution, including the procedures outlined in the explanatory paragraphs for these several items.

It is hoped this program can be developed in specific terms, including financial arrangement, and that these be reported to the Executive Committee in its meeting November 21 if possible.

F. H. Carman
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Technical Director

FHC/bk

Attachment

October 13, 1966

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