The Electrical and Electronic Insulation Association

Federated in BEAMA Ltd

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J.F. Churchill, Esq.,
Monsanto Chemicals Ltd.,
10-18, Victoria Street,
London, SW1A 0HQ.

[redacted]

RLS/JB. 8th November 1972.

Dear Mr. Churchill,

Polychlorinated Biphenyls.

A number of members of the Electrical & Electronic Insulation Association, an Association federated in the British Electrical & Allied Manufacturers Association, have drawn my attention to the difficulty they are experiencing in obtaining laboratory quantities of PCB's from your Company.

The reasons for your reluctance to sell PCB to other than capacitor and transformer manufacturers is well understood, but it is thought that you may not have realised the difficulties your action has placed in the way of manufacturers of insulation materials used in the manufacture of capacitors and transformers.

The manufacturer of insulation is required to assure himself and his customers that the products manufactured will not only meet exacting electrical requirements, but that when used in conjunction with PCB's in transformers or or capacitors, they will be resistant to the chemical and will not contaminate it. This calls for both type testing of new products and quality control testing of products during the course of manufacture.

We understand that at present our members are obliged to obtain the small quantities of PCB they require from a nominated capacitor manufacturer who has been authorised by you to supply, subject to agreement as to methods of disposal etc. This procedure is not satisfactory because there are a number of capacitor and transformer manufacturers who use PCB's, possibly differing in composition, and it is impracticable to ask each one to supply quantities of material for conducting tests. Further, it places the insulation manufacturer in an invidious position if they have to seek supplies from a customer or potential customer.

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We believe that whilst it is highly desirable to ensure that unintentional or reckless pollution of the environment does not occur through PCB's being made generally available, there cannot on any reasonable grounds be a need to continue to deny insulation manufacturers direct access to the limited quantities they require, and we ask that Messrs. Monsanto Chemicals re-consider their decision whereby supplies are currently only available via transformer or capacitor manufacturers.

I am copying this letter to our sponsoring branch in the Department of Trade and Industry because I am sure they will share my concern that an unnecessary difficulty has been placed in the way of insulation manufacturers through your unwillingness to supply them.

It is my hope that when you have considered this matter further, you will resume supplying my members, at which time it will be necessary for us to jointly agree the code of practice regarding use, disposal, recording of quantities, etc.

Yours sincerely,

R.L. Stanley.

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