

April 8, 1954

Mr. Ira R. Messer, Vice-President
Watson-Standard Company
225 Galveston Avenue
Pittsburgh 30, Pennsylvania

Dear Mr. Messer:

Mr. R. A. Calsibet has called to my attention that you desire information regarding plastisols used in the manufacture of dolls and toys. I understand that you use "Makelite" vinyl resins QXNV and VYNV in these plastisols.

Based upon feeding tests conducted in our laboratories, these resins themselves are quite physiologically inert, and they are of a very low order of toxicity. Dr. A. J. Lehman of the United States Food and Drug Administration has stated that polyvinyl chloride, polyvinyl acetate, and polyvinyl chloride-acetate are so insoluble as a class that the chances of contamination by the solvent action of foods are rather slight, and they are considered suitable for food packaging. This statement appeared in an article published in the ASSOCIATION OF FOOD AND DRUG OFFICIALS OF THE UNITED STATES QUARTERLY BULLETIN, Volume 15, Number 3, July, 1951. This statement, in itself, indicates to us that these materials have a very low order of toxicity. Of course, in the manufacture of plastisols, the other components of the formulation, such as the plasticizers, stabilizers, and dyes or pigments utilized, must be considered.

If you should wish to do so, we would have no objection to your contacting Dr. Henry F. Smyth, Jr. who is in charge of our toxicological laboratory at Mellon Institute in Pittsburgh regarding your problem. Dr. Smyth is out of town quite often, and it would be advisable to make an appointment with him to discuss this subject. Since he is located in Pittsburgh, this should be readily accomplished. Dr. Smyth will be glad to discuss any questions you might have in mind and to advise you about studies which should be done to establish safety in use of these products.

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Mr. Ira R. Messer

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April 8, 1954

It would be impossible for us to consider evaluating all your various formulations. After you have had an opportunity to discuss this matter with Dr. Smyth, we shall decide to what extent we can cooperate with regard to the toxicity of the plastisols.

Very truly yours,

MEDICAL DIRECTOR
INDUSTRIAL MEDICAL AND TOXICOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Thos. W. Hale, M. D.
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Note to Dr. Smyth: I spoke with you regarding this matter, and you said that it would be possible to feed one sample of plastisols to dogs. Bakelite may approve the examination of one sample after you have spoken with Mr. Messer.

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Blind copy to Mr. R. A. Calsibet
Mr. H. F. Robertson
Mr. H. S. Carpenter
Dr. H. F. Smyth, Jr.

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FOR INTERNAL CORRESPONDENCE

BAKELITE COMPANY

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30 EAST 42nd STREET, NEW YORK 17, NEW YORK

To (Name) Dr. T. W. Nale
Company Toxicology Department
Location 300 Madison Avenue

Date April 2, 1954
Originating Dept. Bakelite Sales

Answering letter date

Copy to Mr. H. F. Robertson
Mr. H. S. Carpenter—

Subject Watson-Standard Company
225 Galveston Avenue
Pittsburgh 30, Pennsylvania

Cleveland Baku Office

Dear Dr. Nale:

We have had a request from Mr. Ira R. Messer, Vice President of subject concern, one of our larger customers, for information regarding the toxicity of BAKELITE vinyl resins QYNV and VYNV. They use these resins in plastisols for the manufacture of dolls and toys. Their chief concern is the possible toxic effect of their product on a child who bites and chews pieces of the doll.

We realize that no statements can be made regarding their finished compound but would like you to give them what assurances you can on the vinyl resins. Resin QYNV is a straight vinyl chloride resin made by emulsion polymerization; VYNV is a similar product containing a less than 5% copolymerized vinyl acetate.

For determining possible toxic hazard of their plastisol, the suggestion has been made that subject run a hydrochloric acid digestion of the cured pigmented plastisol and a spectroscopic determination for arsenic and lead and other toxic materials. May we have your comments on this procedure or any other suggestions you may have for making a simple range finding toxicity test on their plastisol.

Can you suggest an outside laboratory which might undertake range finding toxicity tests on their plastisol compound? Also, how much would it cost us to make such a test on one product for them.

Very truly yours,

R. A. Calsibet

R. A. Calsibet

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TOXICOLOGY DEPARTMENT

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