BIO-MEDICAL RESEARCH
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R&S 112936

B.F.Goodrich

The B. F. Goodrich Company

500 SOUTH MAIN STREET • AKRON, OHIO 44318

ADDRESS REPLY TO: DEPT. 0020 BLDG. 5-H

COPY

June 16, 1975

R&S 112937

John F. Finklea, M.D.
Director
NIOSH
5600 Fisher's Lane
Rockville, Maryland 20852

0000397

Dear Dr. Finklea:

The B.F.Goodrich Company has not done any studies in the past on the inhalation of PVC dust, nor do we have any such studies now underway. I am not aware of such studies being done, either here in the U.S. or overseas, although it probably is a study that needs to be done some day. I think one of the reasons no such tests have gotten underway is that PVC has been for the past year, and continues to be, a changing product in that the amount of residual vinyl chloride monomer is steadily decreasing. Years ago, levels of several hundred and even several thousand parts per million of residual vinyl chloride monomer were not uncommon. Today the average level in polymer produced at Goodrich is 20 ppm or less, and we anticipate that this will continue to go down as we develop improved technology to remove the residual monomer.

I would think that if any work were undertaken at this time, it should include studies with PVC dusts which have essentially zero residual monomer in order to minimize the problem of differentiating between the effects of PVC itself and those of residual monomer. Studies with such monomer-free PVC would also be more predictive of what will probably be typical exposures in the future.

I believe the B.F.Goodrich studies which you heard about were the feeding studies which were done for Goodrich by Harvard and submitted to the Food and Drug Administration some 25 years ago. This, as you will see, was a 2-year study on feeding, rather than inhalation. We don't know what the residual monomer level in the polymer was, but typically, the vinyl and vinylidene co-polymers such as were used in this study, would have high levels of residual VCM.

John F. Finklea, M.D.
NIOSH

It is interesting to note that when this material was fed, even at 5% levels for two years, there was no apparent adverse effects on the experimental animals.

I am enclosing a copy of the report we sent to the FDA.

Sincerely,

M. N. Johnson, M.D.
Director
Department of Environmental Health

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