Monsanto

FROM (NAME—LOCATION—PHONE) J. H. Craddock - B3NA (4-4764)

DATE : February 6, 1984 cc.

SUBJECT : Safety Procedures For PCB

REFERENCE :

TO : C. A. Bender - B1SA

Attached for your information are several copies of the Material Safety Data Sheet for PCBs. This document provides information on health effects, occupational control procedures, disposal instructions, etc. The MSDS is primarily intended for personnel who come into large quantities of PCB.

Amounts of PCB usually associated with florescent light ballast (about 2 oz. or less) or small electrical motors as used in starting capacitors (usually 1 oz. or less) are specifically excluded from use and disposal regulation by EPA rules. As recently as November 1 of last year EPA authorized the use and distribution in commerce of an additional approximately one million pounds of PCBs in "small appliance" capacitors. The EPA concluded that these uses in small capacitors "would not present an unreasonable risk of injury to health or the environment."

Monsanto worker experience (for about 50 years of PCB manufacturing and use) and that of several thousand other workers, including many in several capacitor and transformer manufacturing plants, has failed to show any causal-effect relationship between PCBs and chronic human illness except dermatitis. Dermatitis (skin rashes, etc.) is reversible after removal of the source of irritation (i.e., PCB).

As to the liquid, melted material that comes from light ballasts, it may or may not be contaminated with PCBs. PCBs are sealed in a small container about the size of a flashlight battery and then all of the electrical "stuff" is encased in a plastic potting compound. The potting compound is usually the material that melts and runs out upon overheating. If by some way the PCB capacitor ruptured, PCB could also be present but not usually.

I'd suggest the workmen use rubber gloves to remove the leaky ballasts to keep the material off the skin. Both the gloves and ballast can be put in a plastic garbage bag for disposal.

Call me if you have any questions.

J. H. Craddock

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