

(12/1/56) Vinylite
(CR Polystyrene)

cc: Mr. H. F. Robertson

June 19, 1956

Mr. M. A. Brennan
Purchasing Agent
Cornish Wire Company, Inc.
Williamstown, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Brennan:

Your form letter of June fifth to our Bakelite Company has been referred to us for answering. We would offer the following comments as to the possible dermatological effects of the products you list.

"Bakelite" DFD-2422 Natural

This is a polyethylene resin, which is physiologically inert. It is not irritating to the skin and would not be allergenic.

"Bakelite" DFD-2490 Brown 255

This is over 99 per cent polyethylene, to which minor amounts of colorants, such as carbon black and orange pigments, are added. The colorants used would not be expected to produce skin irritation or allergy.

"Bakelite" V8-5911 Natural

This is a vinyl chloride - acetate resin to which an inert plasticizer is added. The plasticizer has been evaluated as to dermatological effects, and it is not active as a sensitizer or a skin irritant. Of course, the resin itself is quite inert.

"Bakelite" GY3Q and GY3J Resins

These are polyvinyl chloride resins, which in themselves are not considered to be either skin irritants or sensitizers.

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Mr. H. A. Brennan

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The statements above refer to the products as shipped. Of course, changes in the compositions at your plant may alter the possible skin effects. Most basic resins such as these are quite inactive. Usually if adverse skin effects are produced, they are due to additives such as plasticizers or stabilizers. This is particularly true of the vinyls.

There is always the possibility that someone may become sensitized to most anything with which he comes in contact. For example, bakers may become sensitized to wheat flour, with a resulting dermatitis.

We trust that the above information will be helpful to you. If we may be of further service, please let us know.

Very truly yours,

MEDICAL DIRECTOR

Thomas W. Hale, M. D.
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