



CHEMICAL MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION

January 25, 1982

Miss Christy Habermehl
Augusta High School
Third and Bracken Streets
Augusta, Kentucky 41002

Dear Miss Habermehl,

Your letter concerning a proposed science fair project on the effect of vinyl chloride in rats reached me today. This sounds like a very ambitious project but there are a few things about this chemical that I think you should know.

Laboratory studies with rats have shown that both liver and brain cancer can be related to exposure to the chemical. Vinyl Chloride is a gas at room temperature and the animal research was done by exposing the rats to the gas in specially designed inhalation chambers.

Vinyl chloride also causes cancer (liver angiosarcoma) in humans. For this reason, the chemical is handled very carefully in the workplace. At present, workers are not allowed to be exposed to more than one part vinyl chloride per million parts of air over an eight hour period.

In summary, vinyl chloride is a very dangerous chemical if not handled properly and I strongly suggest that your class seek an alternative to this particular project.

Good luck with your science fair.

Sincerely,

Carol R. Stack, Ph.D.
Administrator
Vinyl Chloride Program

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