Monsanto

FROM (NAME & LOCATION): E. M. Potter - B2NK - St. Louis

DATE: January 18, 1972

SUBJECT: Aroclor Drums

REFERENCE:

TO: H. S. Bergen - B2SL

cc:
T. L. Gossage B2SL
C. Paton B2SC
W. B. Papageorge B2NK
P. B. Benignus B2SC
J. R. Savage B2SL
Art Leisy 1740

We have all agreed to adopt the recommendation of our corporate container group on a new drum for Aroclors. Prior to November we were shipping in anall 18 gauge drum. On November 5 we started shipping in an 18 gauge drum with a 16 gauge bottom head. Although we had no failures with the new drum, the problem of environmental contamination by PCB's is so great that we concluded that we should adopt the same drum we currently use for shipment of Niran. This is an ICC 5B drum and is equipped with extra heavy chimes. The appearance of the drum makes it obvious that it is much heavier construction than we previously used.

The Anniston plant has kept records on failures of their Niran drums for several years. Prior to 1971 they were using an ICC 17C drum which is a full 16 gauge drum but does not have the extra heavy chimes. They adopted the ICC 5B drum in late 1970 or early 1971. Since that time they have shipped 50 to 60,000 drums and have had a total of 42 failures from all causes. This means only .008% failures. The nature of the failures is as follows:

14 - leaks at side seams
10 - leaks at bottom seams
6 - leaks at top chimes
6 - punctured drums
4 - drums that were dropped
2 - drums with faulty flange fittings

Obviously we would prefer that we do not have any failures but we all know this is unrealistic.

The new drum is now in service for all export shipments and will be used for all domestic shipments as soon as our supply of previous drums is exhausted. We should be loading our new drums for domestic shipment prior to February 1.

We are still shipping about 500 30-gallon drums per year. To our knowledge we had never had a 30-gallon drum failure until recently. On a shipment to Boston-Edison in October, two 30-gallon drums failed and these will be inspected by Jim Bryant to determine the cause. I have asked Dr. Paton to determine if we must stay in the 30-gallon drum business. If so, we should go to a full 16 gauge drum in place of our present 18 gauge drum. I expect a decision will be made during the week of January 24.

Earl
E. M. Potter

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EMP:gw