Capacitor Fluid Accounts

Dear Sir:

By now many of you are probably aware of the controversy surrounding the use of PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls) and the need to prevent contamination of the environment by them. The following capacitor fluids sold by Monsanto: Capacitor 21 (formerly Aroclor 1221), 1232, 1242 and 1254 are in fact PCBs. We would like to bring you up to date on how the PCB can have a bearing on your company.

1. The essential nature of PCBs as capacitor dielectrics seems to be accepted by governmental agencies such as FDA and EPA.

2. Monsanto has introduced Aroclor 1016 to replace Aroclor 1242 and 1254. Although Aroclor 1016 is chemically still a PCB it does not contain penta and higher chlorobiphenyls. It is therefore more biodegradable than Aroclor 1242 and 1254 which have been the major capacitor fluids used in the past.

3. It is essential that all steps be taken in manufacturing capacitors to prevent escape of PCB fluid to the environment either as spillage or waste. Monsanto has installed incineration facilities at its Sauget, Illinois plant. Fluid can be shipped prepaid by you to Sauget and incinerated at $0.03 per pound. We will be happy to furnish details of this service.

4. ANSI has formed Committee C107 to devise procedures and guidelines for the use of PCB fluids in the dielectric industry. The chairman of this committee is Mr. W. B. Papageorge, environmental control manager, Monsanto Industrial Chemicals Company and the secretary is Mr. A. M. Salazar, executive secretary of the Power Equipment Division of NEMA. A sub-committee on capacitors has been formed under the chairmanship of Dr. A. Pozefsky, G.E., Hudson Falls, N.Y. The first meeting of the capacitor sub-committee will take place in November.

5. It is necessary for Monsanto to keep careful records of PCB sales and to confirm the exact use of sales to the dielectric industry. We would appreciate your taking the brief time necessary to complete the attached questionnaire and return it to Monsanto.

Should you have any questions concerning your usage of PCB fluids please do not hesitate to contact us.

Very respectfully,