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## Plastics Industry Hits VC Code, Offers Own 'Workable' Proposal

By RICHARD WIGHTMAN  
WASHINGTON (FNS) — The giant plastics-chemicals complex Wednesday staged a daylong effort to convince the Federal Government its proposed vinyl chloride health standards would be an unmitigated disaster to the economy.

Instead of taking a merely negative stance, the industry proffered an alternative "workable" standard which might lead to a satisfactory compromise — one which would protect workers from the chemical's alleged cancer-inducing properties.

The industry proposal, outlined at hearings held by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, is a far cry from the "no detectable level" of VC atmospheric incidence proposed by OSHA for exposed workers.

THE PLAN, presented by the Society of the Plastics Industry, and explained by Anton Vittone, president, B.F. Goodrich Chemical Co., would phase down the air content of vinyl chloride to minimum levels starting Oct. 5, 1977.

By that date, a ceiling of 10 parts per million would be set for plants making vinyl chloride monomer and 25 parts per million for those producing polyvinyl chloride resins. (The present emergency standard sets the level at 50 parts per million.)

Vittone insisted that this effort, in itself, would tax the industry's

technical resources to the maximum and involve heavy costs and reduced capacity.

"Many companies will probably require variances of time or methods, therefore provisions for such variances should be made in the permanent standard," Vittone stressed.

HE ALSO EMPHASIZED that much of the needed technology to accomplish the phasedown still has to be developed.

"The commitment cannot be accomplished overnight," he told OSHA.

The SPI proposal, in any case, may provide a pragmatic base on which a permanent standard may be developed. OSHA is anxious this permanent standard may be developed. OSHA is anxious this permanent version should be in place by Oct. 5, since that is the

date when the emergency standard expires and, under OSHA's statute, its life cannot be extended.

SPI produced ammunition from Arthur Little, Inc., the international consulting firm, that any shutdown of PVC production would have serious repercussions on many user industries.

In an accompanying presentation, the company singled out apparel and household furnishings, motor vehicles, construction, specialty and miscellaneous products as the main PVC users.

It noted that elimination of PVC from the market would have the most serious impact on autos and construction but added that bottlenecks would show up in supplies of flooring, upholstery and insulated wire and cable.

"AN IMMEDIATE SHUTDOWN of all PVC resin plants in the U.S. would generate an economic hardship of large magnitude that would create severe economic dislocations in many local areas," Arthur Little predicted.

It also noted that some PVC-using products would need a long lead time in order to switch to substitute materials and described auto upholstery and "related soft trim" items as particularly prone to this problem.

The firm claimed that an immediate shutdown of all PVC resin plants could result in a loss of up to 2.2 million jobs and up to \$90 billion in lost production annually.

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