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Dr. Hasmukh C. Shah
Chemical Manufacturers Ass.
2501 M. Street. NW
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Dear Has:

This letter is to report my findings about the inhibition of Vinyl Chloride in the International market place. Vinyl Chloride produced and transported in Europe, Korea, Saudi Arabia, and Japan had these conditions:

- A. In Europe Vinyl Chloride is stored and polymerized inhibited. When Far East shipments are made in large ships, it is inhibited with Hydroquinone. Initial shipments uninhibited did polymerize to a slight degree. The same case existed at other producers who shipped long distances. Generally, the ships have other products in the same hold previous to Vinyl Chloride and have too high an oxygen concentration i.e. greater than 1000 ppm Oxygen by volume. It is too expensive to purge the large ship tanks to a lower spec suitable to not promote polymerization, thus the monomer is inhibited. Thus distance has some bearing whether to inhibit Vinyl Chloride, but more so it has to do with the cost and ability to condition the huge ship tanks whether inhibitor is added.
- B. Each country handling of Vinyl Chloride monomer is different. One place in Europe does not inhibit while in storage and transported to the polymer plants. This is due to the dedicated service of pipelines etc. Some companies in Japan inhibit monomer going into storage and to polymer plants and small shuttle ships, where another Japanese company does not inhibit monomer handled on land. The Koreans do not inhibit monomer domestically. The Saudis do inhibit their storage simply because of where the inhibitor is added.

In conclusion, we should have the option to add Inhibited to the Vinyl Chloride name depending on the state of chemically adding an inhibitor. In the US, this would be not adding inhibitors for domestic shipments.

Frank Sollman
Frank Sollman
VCNet Panel Member

FILE: VCLINHIB.