

BENEFITS OF UPDATING INTER-INDUSTRY STUDY OF VINYL CHLORIDE WORKERS

Product Stewardship

- Demonstrates to workers, community residents, customers, and other audiences our collective commitment to characterize cancer risks associated with employment in VCM/PVC processes.

Scientific Knowledge

- Refines the estimate of the number of cases of human angiosarcoma of the liver (ASL) associated with operating VCM/PVC plants in the pre-1972 era in North America.
- Provides basis for refining human cancer risk assessments which are used by government agencies for permitting facilities, etc.
- Contributes ASL cases to the international registry.
- Helps to resolve unanswered questions about alleged links to cancers of the brain, lung, and hematopoietic system as well as address non-cancer causes of death such as emphysema.

Litigation Defense

- VCM/PVC manufacturers continue to face toxic tort litigation alleging that numerous other types (non-ASL) of cancer are related to VCM/PVC employment. This type of research is useful in defending such litigation.

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(cont.)

- Chlorine Issue
 - VCM/PVC continue to be a part of the general debate on health and environmental impacts of chlorinated organics. This type of research serves a valuable role in helping to debate the issues on the basis of good science.

Vinyl Chloride Research Coordinators

Potential Study Parameters

The following parameters will be considered in the design of the study. Research areas may include:

- define when exposures changed radically, '72-'76;
- opportunity to quantify exposures for potency estimates/validate animal modeling data;
- cancer experience - incidence and mortality;
- lung functions and symptomatology;
- clues from update of pre-'72 cohort;
- reasonableness of 1 ppm exposure std. PEL;
- DNA adduct formation;
- reproductive health/birth defects;
- exposure to phthalates or plasticizers - other materials associated with compounding;
- serum dioxin/HCB analysis;
- estrogenicity - sperm count;
- short-term vs. long-term exposure and peak vs. sustained exposures;
- questions about EDC carcinogenicity or other end-points; and,
- medical surveillance - liver functions, neurotoxicology.