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Appendix G

To: Ron McCreedy, Dow USA

From: H.J. Hall
Date: January 6, 1993

Subject: Fire Science

VISTA

Objective of Project:

Monitor and promote scientific reasoning in the development of fire codes, standards and regulations that ensure a fair treatment for PVC products.

Status Report:

A. Corrosion

Polyolefins Fire Performance Council has completed their study of corrosion test protocols. They are attempting to resurrect the ASTM E-5.21.70 radiant test which most closely resembles an acid gas test. IEC-89 is currently including the CNET, DIN, ASTM E5.21.70 and ASTM D9.21.04. If neither of the U.S. ASTM methods are standardized, they will be dropped. D9.21.04 is currently being rewritten in ASTM to resolve negatives.

B. Toxicity

1. NYC Advisory Council on Toxicity

NYC has not called a meeting of this group since February and apparently does not intend to have future meetings. They have adopted an "interim protocol" with a specific cut off number. Rick Gottwald is investigating how this happened.

2. ASTM

A rewrite of ASTM E5.21 (NIST based method) by Steve Packham received eleven negatives including M. Hirschler, R. Strength and Dick Gann of NIST. There will now be a letter ballot to attempt to declare the negatives non persuasive.

C. New Business

1. Tom Williams and I met 11-12-92 with the Defense Electronics Supply Center (DESC) at Dayton to determine why PVC has been included on their Hazardous Materials Minimization (HMMIN) list. The apparent reason is a highly inaccurate report from Support Systems Associate, Inc. of San Antonio which was done for the San Antonio Air Logistics Command. We were able to view the report but not obtain a copy. We expressed our outrage at some of the conclusions and are attempting to obtain a copy of the report. Surprise!

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Support Systems Associate, Inc. is now defunct. M. Hirschler is planning to obtain a copy directly from the author. R. Burnett will contact Peter DeLaCruz to determine what can be done to obtain a copy.

Once a copy has been received, an appropriate critique will be made and recommendations made on future action.

2. Both the CSA and UL apparently plan to organize corrosion study groups. I have told M. Hirschler to join the CSA group due to his past relationship and inform me further on the UL group before taking action.

Recommended Actions and Future Programs:

A. Corrosion

Continue to monitor ASTM and IEC 89 actions. Promote the standardization of ASTM D9.21.04 as the most scientific useful corrosion protocol.

B. Toxicity

Vote negative on ASTM E 5.21. Support NIST activities on toxicity protocol development.

C. New Business

1. Obtain copy of Support System Associates report and prepare technical critique. Discuss appropriate action with the Electrical Materials Council.
2. Monitor CSA and UL corrosion groups. Determine appropriate membership for UL

H. J. Hall

cc: Pat Benkner
R.R. Smith

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