



L/W
Correspondence file *Reimer*

**BOOTS & COOTS
FIRE & PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT, INC.**

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2-3 CE

JUNE 3, 1988

3M COMPANY
3M CENTRE
ST PAUL, MN 55144
ATTN: MR. WILLIAM STEVENS

SUBJECT: FOAM SYSTEMS TESTING. BEALE A.F.B. CALIFORNIA.

IN ALL LITERATURE AND DOCUMENTATION THAT IS PUBLISHED BY THE MAJOR MANUFACTURERS OF A.F.F.F. CONCENTRATE IT IS CLAIMED THAT THESE PRODUCTS ARE BIODEGRADABLE. FURTHERMORE, VERBAL PRESENTATIONS MADE BY VARIOUS MANUFACTURERS REPRESENTATIVES HAVE ALSO INDICATED THAT THESE PRODUCTS ARE BIODEGRADABLE. THERE IS ALSO AN ARTICLE PREPARED BY MASSELLI ET.AL. WHICH WITH SOME DEGREE OF ACCURACY, INDICATED THAT MATERIALS WITH A B.O.D. 20/C.O.D. RELATIONSHIP GREATER THAN 0.5 ARE READILY BIODEGRADABLE. SINCE THE U.S. MILITARY SPECIFICATION CALLS FOR A MINIMUM RELATIONSHIP OF 0.65 (MIL-F-24385D (DRAFT)) AND DATA PRESENTED TO THE GOVERNMENT INDICATES THIS RELATIONSHIP TO BE 0.7 - 0.9, WE COULD ASSUME THE PRODUCTS ARE BIODEGRADABLE.

IMAGINE THE SURPRISE AND TOTAL SHOCK WHEN THE BOOTS AND COOTS OFFICE IN OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA RECEIVES A TELEPHONE CALL FROM GRINNELL FIRE PROTECTION IN SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA TELLING US THAT 3M, 3% A.F.F.F. CONCENTRATE IS NOT BIODEGRADABLE. THIS INFORMATION, THEY CLAIM, WAS GIVEN TO THEM DURING A ONE HOUR TELEPHONE CONVERSATION BY A "PH.D. SCIENTIST, CHEMIST" BY THE NAME OF ERIC REIMER AT THE 3M COMPANY.

IMAGINE FURTHER, OUR EMBARRASSMENT AND CREDIBILITY LOSS SINCE WE HAD BEEN TELLING GRINNELL FIRE PROTECTION, THE SACRAMENTO CORPS OF ENGINEERS AND THE GENERAL CONTRACTOR THAT TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE BASED UPON MANUFACTURERS DATA, THAT 3M 3% A.F.F.F. CONCENTRATE WAS BIODEGRADABLE. THIS INFORMATION WAS REQUIRED IN ORDER THAT WE MAY CONDUCT A ONE (1) MINUTE TEST OF AN A.F.F.F. SYSTEM AT BEALE A.F.B.

SUBSEQUENTLY, AS A RESULT OF THE INFORMATION GIVEN BY THE 3M COMPANY, GRINNELL FIRE PROTECTION WAS INCONVENIENCED AND DAMAGED, IN THAT, THEY HAD TO HIRE A SUCTION PUMP AND HOLDING TANK FOR IN EXCESS OF \$10,000.00. BOOTS & COOTS ALONG WITH THE GENERAL CONTRACTOR WERE INCONVENIENCED AND DAMAGED, SINCE THE TEST PROGRAM HAD TO BE RESCHEDULED, WHICH COMPOUNDED THE LIQUIDATED DAMAGES ALREADY IN EFFECT.

Fluorad™ Fluorochemical Surfactants
& Fluorochemical Intermediates

Eric - 6/7/88

I just received this FAX
this morning & that was the
first I had heard of it.
There obviously have been some
misunderstandings which could
have serious repercussions. What;

Technical Assistance (612) 733-5634
To Place An Order (612) 733-1710
Product Information (612) 733-1683

3M

Fluorad™ Fluorochemical Surfactants
& Fluorochemical Intermediates

your view on the
situation? pls
get a hold of me on this.
Home phone 439-4588
work 736-3200
thanks. *con/lik*

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3M

AS A RESULT OF THE INFORMATION GIVEN OUT BY ERIC REIMER THE CORPS OF ENGINEERS, SACRAMENTO DISTRICT OFFICE REQUIRED BOOTS AND COOTS INDIVIDUALS FILLING THE FOAM TANK TO BE FULLY PROTECTED WITH HARD HAT, SAFETY GLASSES, AND GLOVES, SINCE THE 3M 3% A.F.F.F. IS, (I QUOTE) "A DANGEROUS HARMFUL LIQUID." THIS STATEMENT WAS BASED UPON INFORMATION GIVEN BY ERIC REIMER AND DATA SHEETS SUPPLIED BY THE 3M COMPANY TO THE CORPS OF ENGINEERS.

THE RAMIFICATIONS OF THIS DISCLOSURE MAY BE FELT AT OTHER JOB-SITES CONTROLLED BY THE CORPS OF ENGINEERS, SACRAMENTO OFFICE. IN ADDITION, THEY MAY DECIDE TO FORWARD THIS DATA TO OTHER CORPS OF ENGINEERS OFFICES.

BY COPY OF THIS LETTER BOOTS & COOTS REQUESTS A FULL AND COMPLETE DISCLOSURE OF THE TOXIC, CHEMICAL AND BIODEGRADABILITY EFFECTS OF THE 3M A.F.F.F. CONCENTRATES. WE FURTHER SUGGEST THAT PRIOR TO ERIC REIMER OFFERING INFORMATION TO COMPANIES CONTRACTED WITH BOOTS & COOTS ON SPECIFIC PROJECTS, HE COMMUNICATE WITH US FIRST.

YOUR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION TO THIS MATTER IS GREATLY APPRECIATED.

YOURS FAITHFULLY,

JIM DEVONSHIRE/BILL WALTON

CC: LES WILLIAMS
JOHN SCHUSTER
JOHN YOUNG
STEVE WARD (FOR INFO)

JD\US\2161