



INTERNAL CORRESPONDENCE

CHEMICALS AND PLASTICS

P. O. BOX 471, TEXAS CITY, TEXAS 77590

TO (NAME) Suspension/Non-Solvent/Vinyl DATE April 24, 1974
 COMPANY Refrigeration Chiefs & Operators
 LOCATION Vinyl Area Shift Prod. Supervisors

COPY TO Mr. T. F. Drummond
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 Shift Superintendents

SUBJECT Standard Operating Procedures
 Suspension/Non-Solvent Vinyl R sins/
 Vinyl Refrigeration - Proc dures To
 Minimize Personnel Vinyl Chloride
 Exposure

GOVERNMENT REGULATION

In response to a possible link between vinyl chloride exposure and angiosarcoma (a tumor) of the liver, OSHA has passed an emergency six-months standard on vinyl chloride exposure. This standard requires that a ceiling exposure limit of 50 ppm be established to replace the former limit of 500 ppm. (Vinyl chlorid can be detected by smell at 250 ppm.) During the maximum six-month life span of this emergency standard, OSHA will be reviewing the available data in order to develop the final permanent standards. The procedures listed below apply only during the life span of the OSHA emergency regulation.

The OSHA emergency regulations require that any routine work which would cause an employee to be exposed to vinyl chloride in concentrations in excess of 50 ppm be accomplished only by employees wearing fresh air masks or self-contained air packs. Also in the event of an accident such as a leak, line rupture, spillage, etc. which could cause exposure in excess of 50 ppm, employees shall be withdrawn to a

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3. Cleaning Non-Solvent skin pots north of Building 119

Fresh air masks will be required for personnel involved in cleaning these skin pots. A fresh air station has been constructed north of Building 119 for this purpose. Skin pots will be modified to allow process water flushing prior to opening similar to those on D-autoclaves blowdown tanks.

4. Priming vinyl chloride charge pumps south of Building 119

Fresh air masks are required for this operation until a closed system can be provided to contain the vinyl chloride. A fresh air station south of Building 119 has been constructed for this purpose.

5. Changing vinyl chloride charge pump filters south of Building 119

Fresh air masks are required to prepare these for maintenance and also for maintenance personnel involved in changing the filters. Use the same fresh air station noted in Item 4.

6. Washing resin blending tanks at Building 120

Fresh air masks are required for this operation until a ventilation system can be installed to remove vinyl chloride/nitrogen vapors from the blend tanks. The fresh air buggy south of Building 171 Instrument Storage room is available for this work.

7. General maintenance of equipment which contained vinyl chloride

Vessels which recently contained vinyl chloride are to be tested using the vinyl chloride tester in the Chief Operator's office before entry is permitted. Piping, pumps, and valves in vinyl chloride monomer and/or slurry service will require emptying, double-valve and venting, and flushing, if possible, before removal. In reality, no procedure can cover all possibilities. Use your judgment on borderline cases. It is the best guideline until more data are collected and better practices developed.

Otis A. Shelton
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