

Firestone

PLASTICS COMPANY



TELEPHONE: 215-326-2000

April 8, 1977

The Honorable Richard T. Schulze
House Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20515

Sir:

During the meeting in your office on Thursday, March 31, 1977, the problem confronting the Firestone Plastics Company, outlined to you in my letter of March 18, 1977, was graphically demonstrated.

The Firestone Plastics Company has repeatedly sought direction from the federal agencies concerned with its policy of excluding women of child-bearing ability from jobs involving regulated vinyl chloride areas. The Firestone Plastics Company has fully explained to these agencies, orally and in writing, its position with respect to this policy and the reasons compelling its implementation, including references to the substantial medical and scientific data which prompted the policy. However, as you know, none of these agencies has been willing to provide the Firestone Plastics Company with a written official opinion with respect to their support of this policy. Indeed, agencies having special capabilities in the scientific and medical fields charged with the responsibility of providing guidance and direction to industry in order to safeguard its employees have refused to take a formal position for or against the policy. As a consequence, without such written official opinions, the Firestone Plastics Company's policy has been, and will continue to be, subjected to multiple legal challenges.

As we stated to those present in your office at the meeting last week, the Firestone Plastics Company is willing to follow the informed direction of responsible federal agencies with regard to the employment of women of child-bearing ability in positions which might expose them to vinyl chloride monomer.

ROSS V. BFS

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If the appropriate federal regulatory agency, such as OSHA or NIOSH, would develop a definitive position on this health matter, and make such a position known, and in writing, the Firestone Plastics Company could then proceed to deal with the problem in an intelligent manner.

The meeting in your office revealed the total lack of coordination of the federal agencies involved with this matter and the Firestone Plastics Company's understandable frustration.

What the Firestone Plastics Company seeks is your help to induce the federal agencies legally mandated to provide such guidance and direction to fulfill these responsibilities entrusted to them by Congress.

Very truly yours,

T. C. Walker
President

TCW:md

ROSS V. BFS