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PCB workers seek \$4 million damages

REDDING (UPI)
Four workers who charge contamination by the toxic electrical insulating chemical PCB are seeking \$4 million in damages from the operator of a Shasta County sawmill and plywood plant.

The Superior Court suit contends that Champion International Corp., based in Stamford, Conn., knew the chemical was "extremely dangerous and hazardous" but failed to warn the workers about the risk.

Spokesman John Hanson told UPI by telephone from Champion's regional office in Portland, Ore., Wednesday that the company was still waiting for notice of the

lawsuit, which was filed last week.

Hanson said a capacitor had leaked in the Anderson plant warehouse in November 1980, spilling about a half-pint of PCB-laden fluid. But he said it was considered a "minor health hazard" at the time.

The workers — Bob Toney, John Young, Paul Roberts and Steve Meeks — contend they were exposed to polychlorinated biphenyls between Oct. 27 and Oct. 30, 1980. They claimed they were "rendered sick, sore and lame" as a result of their exposure during the separation of used electrical parts in a company warehouse.