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MCA

MANUFACTURING CHEMISTS ASSOCIATION

1825 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, N.W. WASHINGTON, D. C. 20009 (202) 462-6100

September 26, 1973

TO: TECHNICAL TASK GROUP ON VINYL CHLORIDE RESEARCH

SUBJECT: Scare Fabricity on Vinyl Chloride Hazards

Gentlemen:

Enclosed herewith is a copy of a Dow translation of excerpts from an Italian newspaper article on occupational health hazards; reference is made to a number of other chemicals as well. MCA has made inquiry of European contacts as to the situation leading to the publication of this article, but at the present time we are not aware of any specific stimulus to its appearance last month.

This notice is being sent to alert the American vinyl chloride producers and users, in order that they may be prepared to respond to inquiries directed to them from the press or public. MCA has to date, received no such inquiries. If we do, we plan to respond along the following lines:

(1) The Association and its members are aware of the research reported by Drs. Caputo and Viola at the 10th International Cancer Congress in Houston, in 1970, and subsequently published in the periodical literature. In this study, they produced cancer in rats by long-term exposure to vinyl chloride monomer vapors at concentrations 150 times as high as those permitted under current industrial hygiene standards.

(2) In May of 1971, we brought Dr. Viola to the United States to discuss his work in detail, and to secure his evaluation of the significance of his results. At that time Dr. Viola specifically disclaimed any implications of hazard to the users of polyvinyl chloride products, or any suggestion that present industrial hygiene standards for vinyl chloride monomer exposure were inadequate to protect the worker from risk of occupationally caused cancer.

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INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

To: J. L. MacMillan

Date: October 2, 1973

From: Zeb G. Bell, Jr.

Location: 19 East

Subject:

A daily newspaper in Milan, Italy, dated August 7, 1973 printed an article on vinyl chloride and cancer. The translation was performed by Dow Chemical and submitted to MCA. In response to this scare publicity on vinyl chloride hazards, MCA prepared a response to any possible inquiries that member companies may receive. Dr. Ken Johnson of MCA has offered to respond to any inquiries for information concerning vinyl chloride along the lines indicated in the attached correspondence. I recommend that all inquiries reference vinyl chloride received by PPG should be sent to Dr. Johnson to be answered rather than PPG furnishing subject information.

Zeb G. Bell, Jr.

Attachment

cc: J. A. Clapperton
L. B. Grant, M.D.
W. R. Harris
J. Ruch
L. F. Sargent
V. A. Sarni
H. C. Twiehaus
R. E. Widing
G. M. Zapp

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DR. LOVEJOY
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FOR YOUR INFORMATION

WBG.

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