

From: A. B. Steele Date: May 17, 1974
cc: See Attached Distribution List Subject: Vinyl Resins Operations
Flash Report

Vinyl Chloride Monomer

Dow advised today that shipments of vinyl chloride monomer to UCC would continue to be restricted to 90 per cent of contract amounts for an additional two weeks to permit the rebuilding of working inventories depleted during the outage at Freeport.

On Friday, May 10, 1974, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) caused to be published a proposed standard governing working conditions and vinyl chloride exposures in the PVC industry. The proposed standard for employee exposure is set at no detectable level by methods capable of detecting VCM at concentrations of 1 ppm. By industry experience, the proposed standard is excessive and unrealistically restrictive. The industry committee within the SPI is urging OSHA to hold public hearings; justification for such hearings is now being formulated for presentation to OSHA prior to June 10th.

The epidemiological study of some 8,384 vinyl chloride workers was reported by Tabershaw/Cooper Associates on May 10th. The major findings of the study are:

1. The overall mortality of the study population was approximately 75 per cent of what would be expected in a comparable population of U.S. males.
2. No cause of death showed a statistically significant excess over what would be expected in a comparable U.S. male population.
3. No new deaths identified as angiosarcoma of the liver were found.

Suspension/Non-Solvent Resins

The unit was shut down on May 14th for some much needed electrical and mechanical maintenance. Production will resume on May 16th and the original plan to produce 14.5 million pounds in May remains in effect.

A. B. Steele

ABS:ml
Attachment

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