Monsanto

FROM (NAME & LOCATION) J. R. Kuster - WGK

DATE : February 19, 1973

SUBJECT : Aroclor Water Analyses

REFERENCE

cc: J. K. Grant
W. C. Engman
A. E. Leisy

TO : H. J. Horner

On 2/12/73 we experienced difficulties in obtaining consistent and reproducible analytical results on water determinations of Aroclor samples. We suspected that our "electrometric dead stop" instrument was at fault. Our instrument technician made frequent checks and re-standardizations of the instrument. The difficulty then would disappear and reoccur at intervals. A substitute instrument was used with the same results.

Our next approach was to purchase new Karl Fischer reagent and the benzene and methanol used as a solvent in making our determinations.

We traced the problem to the methanol. We have been purchasing this methanol from the same supplier for several years with no ill effect. It is interesting to note that whatever contaminate there is in the methanol affects only Aroclor analyses. It does not affect the standardization or standard (non-Aroclor) water samples. SectionI runs benzene at 10-15 ppm range with no problem.

We have set up a separate job for Aroclor water analyses using methanol A-412 (reagent grade). This has eliminated our problem.

R. Kuster

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