Toxicology – Aroclors
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CALL REPORT

Company	Date Called	Date Typed
R.I.C. Components Limited, Budds Lane, Romsey, HANTS.	24.2.65	1.3.65
	Interviewed Mr. Strong Mr. Listen Mr. Bearne	
Other Addresses of Interest	Salesman DW	
Affiliations	Circulated To	Copies To J.M.Campbell C.R.Coleman R.G.Birrell J.Whittaker D.V.N. Hardy File

Personnel	Status	Location

GRP/Product
ENGINEERING
CHEMICALS
DIELECTRIC
FLUIDS

This visit was made at Strong's request to discuss handling of Aroclors at their new Romsey plant. They have had some trouble with the girls handling the soldering of the capacitors. R.I.C. believe that the capacitors should be sealed as hot as possible. They therefore take them out of their impregnation vessel at about 80°C and solder them immediately. This, of course, entails that there are a lot of fumes around the place and the girls have complained that this has affected their make-up. I advised Strong that our first recommendation would be for him to reduce the temperature in the impregnation vessel before opening it to remove the capacitors, but he said that this interfered with their production technique. They were not worried with fumes from the impregnation vessels since they have extraction fans alongside the vessels which take away the fumes, and the men concerned with the unloading procedure wear masks with cartridges for breathing. (In fact he showed me the new mask which they have obtained for this job which is very light and comfortable to wear. It is much lighter than the Siebe-Gorman equipment and people at Newport and Ruaben might be interested in examining it. It is manufactured by T.J. Rogers & Sons Ltd., Leiston, Suffolk.).

To protect the girls temporarily, they are supplying them with a light hood and the girls seem quite happy to wear this as a pro tem measure. However, they are arranging for localised ventilation to be placed over the conveyor belt carrying the capacitors during the soldering operation and Mr. Strong hopes to get this installed fairly soon. This should go a long way to dispersing fumes and

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clearing this matter up.

R.I.C. are currently moving their Willesden plant down to Romsey and hope to have this installed by May, when they will be ready to take their first tanker deliveries of Arcolor 1242. I believe the idea is to run Arcolor 1254 in the plant they will be moving down from Willesden, and 1242 in the new plant at Romsey already installed and working.

They will be placing orders with us for [illegible]um quantities of Arcolor 1242 for cleaning out the storage vessel.

I commented on the erratic way in which they are purchasing at the moment. At the beginning of this year they suddenly started ordering quantities considerably higher than previously and have subsequently been cancelling several deliveries. It seems that Mr. Bearne has not really worked out exactly how much material they will be needing. I discussed this with Mr. Bearne and it was agreed that, for the time being, they will probably be using about 13 or 14 drums per month total, rather than the 20 which they have been ordering. It was agreed that we should cancel their order for delivery in the middle of March but leave on the books the order for delivery at the end of March. By the end of March Mr. Bearne hoped to have assessed fairly accurately exactly what quantities of material they will be requiring.

COMPATIBILITY OF MATERIALS

R.I.C. seal their capacitors with rubber decks purchased from Ioco. These have been quite satisfactory with Arcolor 1254 but a preliminary check has indicated to them that there may be difficulties with Arcolor 1242. Liston gave me 12 of these seals and asked us to do a comparative check on Arcolor 1254 and Arcolor 1242. A technical service request has been entered for this work. I said that I would try to get them an answer on this as soon as possible.

GENERAL

Mr. Strong told me that their turnover is now of the order of £¼ million per year and that they hope to raise this to £½ million at the end of 1965 and reach a turnover of £1 million per year in three or four years' time. However, he admitted that he is finding difficulties at the moment now that the organisation has grown to its present size because he is still short of good Executives to organise the day to day running of the factory. I got the impression that he is feeling the strain a bit himself at the moment. He is certainly working hard to try to get somebody with ability to work under him.

D. WOOD

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