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J. C. Weber

COMMENTS - SPORTS ILLUSTRATED
ARTICLE

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Comments relating to the reference article are as follows:

1) The Aroclor trademarks listed on the end page are correct as they apply to the period prior to 1971. Aroclor 1268 was discontinued in 1970. Aroclor 1232 and Aroclor 1262 were discontinued in 1971. Aroclor 1248 and Aroclor 1260 were discontinued in 1972. Aroclor 1016 was first introduced in 1971. We currently produce and sell only Aroclors 1221, 1016, 1242 and 1254. Aroclor 1221 and Aroclor 1016 are used in capacitors. Aroclor 1242 and Aroclor 1254 are used in transformers.

2) The presence of PCBs in products such as those listed on the end page, first column, last full paragraph, does not mean that PCBs are deliberately added to these products. In many instances PCBs are present because of contamination. For example, wood pulps can be contaminated by process water or by PCBs transported in the atmosphere and finding their way into the soil and eventually in the trees. Fish oil can be contaminated because of exposure of the fish to water, sediment or food containing trace amounts of PCBs. Xerox toner canld have been contaminated because the carbon black was made from oil containing PCBs. In one case that I pursued I was told that PCBs were not present in toilet soap; however PCBs were reported to be present because of confusion with a non-PCB germicide which was added to the soap.

3) The reference to pregnant women exposed to PCBs in Japan who suffered miscarriages and stillbirths is misleading. The Japanese authorities in reporting the miscarriages and stillbirths could not and did not attribute either of these to the PCB exposure.

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