

May 25, 1966

Mr. R. E. Boeh
Electronic Components, Inc.
902 Crescent Avenue
Bridgeport, Connecticut 06607

Dear Mr. Boeh:

Your inquiry concerning protective hand creams for employees handling Aroclor 1242 has been referred to the Medical Department for reply.

The liquid Aroclors are not skin irritants in the usual sense. They are excellent solvents, however, and may remove the normal protective fats and oils near the surface of the skin if exposure or contact is repeated or prolonged. This obviously may lead to a dermatitis or local skin reaction.

If, as I have been told, some of your employees are working also in degreasing operations, there may well be a dual solvent effect.

A number of companies manufacture protective or barrier hand creams formulated for specific purposes - i.e. a cream for water soluble irritants; another for water insoluble irritants; a third for organic solvents, etc. Among these companies are:

American Optical Company
Southbridge, Massachusetts

Sugar Beet Products Company
Saginaw, Michigan 48605

Mine Safety Appliances Company
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15208

Branch Office at:
281 Fairfield Avenue
Bridgeport, Connecticut 06603

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Mr. R. E. Boeh
May 25, 1966
Page 2

Perhaps it is unnecessary to point out that barrier or protective creams are an adjunct to - and not a substitute for - a preventive program which includes steps to reduce or eliminate contact and good personal hygiene practices. To be effective, the appropriate cream should be applied possibly several times a day in accordance with the supplier's instructions following thorough washing of the hands with soap and water. Some of our plants have had unsatisfactory experience with creams when they have been applied in insufficient quantities when a worker started a shift and the invisible barrier was expected to perform miracles throughout an 8-hour shift even though there was too liberal exposure during the day, the cream was removed by washing during a break for meals and no new application of the cream after washing.

If I can be of any further service, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Very truly yours,

M. N. Johnson, M. D.
Assistant Medical Director

MNJ:mjb

cc: G. R. Graham - Monsanto, N.Y.
R. W. Ehrhardt - Monsanto, N.Y.

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