bcc: N. T. Johnson - NJOHN

November 8, 1967

Mr. C. D. Olsen
R.D. #2, Box 329
Ligonier, Pennsylvania 15658

Dear Mr. Olsen:

The question you propose; namely, that of welding material that has an accumulation of Aroclor on it, cannot be answered "yes" or "no" without more quantitative details.

First of all, I think it is a matter of good housekeeping that any material be cleaned off surfaces to be welded. As you know, carbon monoxide and other hydrocarbons can come off of material that is coated with plain motor oil.

In the case of Aroclors, chlorine gas would not be liberated but hydrochloric acid vapor could occur. This, however, would be noticeable by the formation of a white cloud which would be irritating to the eyes and nose and I think in this case were sufficient HCl gas evolved you would, for the sake of comfort, require control of the welding fumes.

Again, if Aroclor vapor was evolved in sufficient quantity to cause systemic damage, it is my opinion that there would be such a noticeable and disagreeable odor that you would not continue welding. Again, we are dealing with matters of quantity. I don't know if you work 8 hours a day doing this same type of work or whether you weld one or two tanks once a month.

Without knowing what your exact situation is, I can only advise you that if after welding a biting odor or irritating fumes are prevalent, it would be advisable to have an exhaust arrangement to evacuate the fumes.

Sincerely,

R. Emmet Kelly, M. D.
Medical Director

RMK/ln

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