

Interoffice Communication

To Flynt Kennedy

From T. G. Swanson

Date May 23, 1977

Subject CANCER WARNING ON PVC BAG, EXPORT SHIPMENT

File-619
RECEIVED
MAY 23 1977

The attached is the latest correspondence on our difficulties in shipping PVC resin with the cancer warning on bags shipped to New Zealand. As you can see, we are now at the point where we are definitely losing business because of our position. We have also been told by enough different people that I have to believe that B. F. Goodrich, Tenneco and other U. S. suppliers are not putting the cancer warning label on their PVC export bags. As you know, we have also had complaints from Venezuela, Bolivia, Peru, etc.

When do you expect our small scale test program at Aberdeen to be completed so that we may make a decision as to whether we can remove the cancer warning from our export PVC bags?



T. G. Swanson

dah

cc: HRF, DAK, Jim Doyle (1630)

Attachments

SAL 000071421

RECEIVED

MAY 17 1977

12 May, 1977

Conoco Chemicals Division,
Continental Oil Co. Ltd,
P.O. Box 2197,
Houston,
Texas 77001,
U.S.A.

PLASTICS BUSINESS AREA

ATTENTION: Mr T.G. Swanson

Dear Tom,

B.F. GOODRICH

When we received your telex of 18 April concerning BFG's objection to the cancer warning label on PVC resin bags, we conveyed the contents to BFG in what we thought to be a suitably worded letter, a copy of which is now enclosed.

We are also enclosing a copy of Paul Bryer's reply from which you will note that he reacted most unfavourably to our letter and, in our opinion, unjustifiably so.

Since receipt of that letter we have discussed the matter with him and he has taken a more reasonable line and admits that if you can overcome this difficulty and supply plain bags, he would certainly consider further purchases from Conoco.

Frankly, I cannot help but feel that your legal people are taking a very hard line attitude and I wonder if they have gone to the trouble of checking the OSHA labelling requirements as far as export shipments are concerned. We know that B.F. Goodrich, Tenneco and other U.S. suppliers are definitely shipping to New Zealand in plain bags and it seems inconceivable to me that they would willingly contravene the regulations.

SAL 000071422

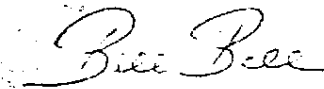
I can only ask that you take up this matter again with your Legal Department and endeavour to obtain a more satisfactory result.

The only reason that BFG are objecting to the cancer warning label is that they are fearful this will lead to industrial troubles. New Zealand is suffering badly from strikes at present and our labour force is extremely militant. Any excuse is used to call a strike and the cancer warning label is just the sort of thing which could trigger one in a PVC plant.

Naturally all users of PVC resin have observed the necessary precautions to ensure that workers are not exposed to health risk, but Goodrich feel that it is asking for trouble to highlight the possible danger.

I look forward to receiving your early advice as to whether you are able to resolve this problem which is preventing us from obtaining further business from a substantial user.

Yours sincerely,



W.M. BELL

SAL 000071423

20 April, 1977.

B.F. Goodrich Chemical (UK) Ltd.
P.O. Box 12 171.
AUSTLAND.

ATTENTION: Mr. P. Brown

Dear Sirs

CONOCO PVC RESIN

We refer to our recent telephone discussion in which you expressed concern at the fact that the initial shipment of Conoco resin was packed in bags which showed the cancer warning label.

Our Principals were advised accordingly and they have now reiterated that their Legal Department would not permit shipments of PVC resin to be made with the cancer warning label deleted unless this could also be applied to their domestic package.

This possibility is being explored but Conoco point out that owing to technical and legal difficulties they do not anticipate that a delation will be possible in the near future.

At the current low residual vinyl chloride monomer levels of Conoco resins, they do not consider there is any significant hazard. Furthermore, they do not believe that they should subject the workers of their export customers to any danger, however slight, to which they would be unwilling to subject American workers.

They point out that in the U.S., B.F. Goodrich have over the last year gone to considerable effort to publicize the advances that have been made in protecting workers in PVC plants and yet their domestic packages must still carry the cancer warning label.

SAL 000071424

... have asked us for any examinations which may overcome your concern
... can only hope that no alarm has been caused in your plant by
... We might add that Cancon resin is being used regularly
in several large New Zealand plants and to date there has been absolutely
no reaction from any workers.

You requested that certificates of analysis should be provided for the
... already received but we regret that Cancon are unable to
accede to your request as this was not specified on the order.

In future they will be only too pleased to supply these certificates on
each specific lot if we request this at time of ordering.

Your comments regarding the above would be appreciated.

Yours faithfully,

TECHNI-CHEMICAL PRODUCTS CO., LTD

W.M. Bell

SAL 000071425