



INTER-COMPANY AND OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

TO:

K. L. Macy, Jr.

FROM:

S. P. Graham

(Dept.
Branch
Division
Company)

LOCATED AT:

Leominster, Mass.

SUBJECT:

Safety Issue

DATE:

February 8, 1983

There is a safety issue involving the EPA Department I would like you to investigate. The issue in question is in regard to maintenance personnel being allowed to work on monomer bearing equipment, after it is deemed safe by the use of a portable meter, without any respiratory equipment. As an obvious compromise, this clause was put into the procedure for maintenance on monomer bearing equipment. Respiratory equipment (airline) should be worn if there is a significant chance of personnel exposure to Vinyl Chloride.

I have received a great deal of feedback from the techs concerning this whole area. I believe our procedures need updating with a stronger emphasis on minimizing unprotected personnel exposure. What has been done is to put the EPA Tech in the position of deciding if a particular piece of equipment is safe to work on. It may be safe when checked, but five minutes from then it could be a different story.

There is only one true way to protect maintenance men working on VCM containing equipment, and that is to enforce adequate respiratory equipment use until the job is completed.

S. P. Graham
EPA Coordinator

SPG/kml

cc: D. L. Young
R. A. Slocumb

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