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DuPont Confidential Information Worker Monitoring Summary

Background

DuPont has manufactured fluorotelomer-based products at its Chambers Works manufacturing plant for over thirty-five years. The Chambers Works is located in Deepwater, New Jersey.

1978-1979 Study

In 1978, prompted by another company informing DuPont that elevated organic fluorine levels had been observed in the blood of their workers who had been exposed to certain fluorinated surfactants, DuPont initiated a study of their Chambers Works workers potentially exposed to DuPont fluorotelomer-based fluorosurfactants. Although the Chambers Works workers did not handle the specific chemicals manufactured by the other company and used a different manufacturing process for the fluorosurfactants manufactured on site, DuPont performed a study which included measurement of total organic fluorine (TOF) levels in the blood of workers and a review of medical files to determine if any adverse health effects could be associated with potential exposure.

Overview

Chambers Works employees were identified who had job assignments with potential for exposure. A subset were selected for blood monitoring representative of the larger worker group. These included employees in research, semi-works, and manufacturing operations. A control group of DuPont office workers in Wilmington, Delaware was also tested. Blood samples were taken during regularly scheduled physical exams and analyzed for total organic fluorine (TOF). The results of the tests were reported to the employees.

Results

The other company reported that 0.002 to 0.3 ppm TOF was present in the blood of the general population; 0.01 to 0.06 ppm TOF in their plant office workers; 0.13 to 1.18 ppm TOF in their general plant workers; and 0.09 to 71 ppm in plant worker in their fluorinated surfactants production area.

DuPont results showed none detected to 0.38 ppm TOF in the Wilmington office workers control group and none detected to 0.37 ppm TOF in the Chambers Works workers group. DuPont concluded that the Chambers Works employees did not have elevated levels of TOF in their blood as compared to the DuPont Wilmington office worker control group. Nor did the worker group show elevated TOF levels as was reported for workers of the other company. In addition, a health and morbidity study of the worker group who had potential for exposure was no different than the overall plant control group and did not suggest any adverse health effect attributable to exposure to fluorotelomer-based chemicals. It was concluded that no further employee blood monitoring would be continued.

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1999-2000 Study

In Fall 1999, DuPont planned to start-up a new product operation at the DuPont Chambers Works where there was potential employee exposure to fluorinated chemicals. Employees in job assignments with potential for exposure which included research, semi-works, and manufacturing workers had blood samples taken for total organic fluorine analysis to establish a baseline. The analysis results showed none detected to 0.37 ppm TOF in the workers blood. These results were in the same range as was observed when a determination was made in ~1979 and within the range reported to be present in the general population.

Summary

DuPont has tested our workers' blood (1979-1999) and sees no elevation of organic fluorine in blood versus background control populations, and no increase versus 1979.

Based upon our testing, blood monitoring programs, and the general experience of our plant-based medical staff and health insurance claims, we have no reason to believe that there are any health concerns associated with proper manufacture, handling or use (i.e., when applied to textiles) of our fluorotelomer-based products.

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