

UNIROYAL, Inc.

OXFORD

(Location)

March 21, 1974

TO: Mr. M. J. Kleinfeld
Naugatuck Chemical

FROM: D. E. Dudrow, Corporate Manager
Safety and Plant Protection

SUBJECT: PVC

Attached is a statement Goodrich has sent to their customers in Canada. It calls to their attention that the various GEON resins contain vinyl chloride monomer and that it may be present as a vapor in the atmosphere of the customer's workplace. We recommend that you consider the necessity of making a suitable statement to our customers.

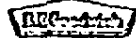
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Attachment

cc: R. E. Lowell
W. D. Harris



URL 14630

INTERCOMPANY CORRESPONDENCE



B.F. Goodrich Canada Limited

EXECUTIVE OFFICES • KITCHENER, ONTARIO, N2G 6J5 • PHONE (519) 742-3641

February 21, 1974

Mr. H. D. Glenn,
Uniroyl (1965) Limited,
P. O. Box 120,
Place d'Armes,
Montreal 126, P.Q.

Dear Mr. Glenn,

On January 23, 1974, a public statement was released by The B. F. Goodrich Company in the United States concerning an investigation of the deaths of three employees at the BFG Louisville, Kentucky plant from a rare form of liver cancer, and the possible connections between these deaths and their work over a number of years in our PVC polymerization operations.

Later search of available medical records revealed that two other employees have died from the same cause, angiosarcoma of the liver, one in 1969 and one in 1974. Another case has been reported of an employee still living.

At the time of issuing the first statement on January 23, B. F. Goodrich provided all available data to the Kentucky Department of Labor, representatives of the Federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and to the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). These agencies are currently investigating these cases, are carrying out industry-wide epidemiological studies, and are in contact with European governments with major PVC industries. The company is continuing to cooperate fully with these agencies.

In Canada, investigative checks of data at our two Canadian plants (Shawinigan, Quebec and Niagara Falls, Ontario) were instituted immediately. Provincial health authorities were informed and employees were briefed on the situation both verbally and by written notification. Medical check-ups of all BFG Canada employees working in the plants will be co-ordinated.

Also cooperating with governments on an international basis are 19 producers of vinyl chloride monomer and PVC under sponsorship of the Manufacturing Chemists Association, 1025 Connecticut Avenue, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20009. This group is sponsoring lengthy and in-depth toxicological and epidemiological studies on vinyl chloride and workers.

As yet no definite connection has been established between angiosarcoma cases and any of the some 50 chemicals which may have been used in polymerization of PVC or its compounds at the Louisville plant. Vinyl chloride monomer, a chlorinated hydrocarbon, is a primary suspect due to the fact it is a major raw material of high volatility to which employees have probably had the greatest exposure. It should be pointed out that our studies of medical records at other plants have revealed no similar cases. None have been reported in Canada.

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As you may know, some residual unpolymerized vinyl chloride monomer remains in commercial polyvinyl chloride polymers and compounds. The levels in Geon resins, plastics and lotions range from virtually undetectable levels to those high enough to suggest the possibility of detectable vapor concentrations in closed storage or in some processing steps, such as heated mixing equipment.

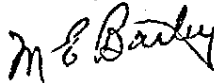
We are in no position to determine if the manner in which resins and compounds used and stored in your plant constitute a potential problem since these operations are not under our control. We do, however, suggest that you review your own operational procedures and take appropriate action.

We would like to point out that the present investigations are confined to polymerization operations where the amount of vinyl chloride, the starting monomer, is much higher than it would be in any process we know involving finished polymer or compounds.

It is not the intent of this memorandum to state that the cause of angiosarcoma of the liver is exposure to vinyl chloride monomer but to point out to our customers that small, residual amounts of this raw material remain in the polymer in unchanged form and that it is one of the suspected chemicals.

We will do our best to keep you informed on this subject as investigations proceed.

Sincerely



M. E. Bailey
Vice President, Marketing
Commercial Products

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