

Industrial Chemicals

Marketing, DAB-2

Mr. A. J. Lichota

VCM - PLANT HYGIENE
NON-CONDENSABLES

Industrial Chemicals

Manufacturing, DAB-G

February 13, 1974

On February 8, 1974, I attended a meeting of the Vinyl Chloride Safety Association in Cleveland. This meeting was called to discuss the B. F. Goodrich report that four employee deaths at their Louisville, Kentucky PVC plant might be related to vinyl chloride exposure.

A portion of the meeting was devoted to a review of points of possible exposure to vinyl chloride as a result of operating practices, and it was generally agreed that the tank car loading area probably represents the location having the greatest possibility of repeated personnel exposure, particularly where the venting of non-condensables from "empty" tank cars is required.

It was indicated that all VCM producers looked unfavorably at the customer practice of padding cars with nitrogen for unloading purposes. Some companies said they did not permit this practice at all and were surprised that anyone would permit customers to use this method for unloading. It was the consensus of VCM manufacturers that a concerted effort must be made by the industry to discourage the further use of nitrogen padding.

As you are aware, Robintech has made a practice of using nitrogen padding and I would request that they again be approached on the subject of discontinuing the practice. In view of the Goodrich report, the problem is much more serious than just the yield loss involved. The venting of cars may be creating serious health hazards for our employees which we cannot permit to continue. In fact, it is more probable that the Federal standard for VCM levels in plant atmospheres will be reduced drastically in the near future, a move which will dictate the discontinuance of tank car venting to the atmosphere.

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Mr. A. J. Lichota

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I appreciate your assistance and suggest the discussions with Robintech take place in the very near future, the results of which negotiations I await with great interest.

W. C. Koch
Quality Assurance Manager

WCK/dl

cc: J. M. Quinn

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