

Ralph L. Harding, Jr.

BATF Approval for PVC Liquor Bottles

John R. Lawrence

August 22, 1973

At the present time we are looking forward to the possible successful outcome of our problems with FDA on the use of PVC for liquor bottles. If we are successful in resolving these problems with FDA, then we would be anxious to get back to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms to have them take a position with respect to using PVC liquor bottles.

In the final environmental impact statement on polyvinyl chloride liquor bottles issued by BATF in March, it is indicated their proposed action is to approve PVC as a suitable material for the manufacture of liquor bottles. BATF further pointed out that this determination was based on favorable information collected during the experimental period, the desire of the liquor industry for a lighter and safer container, the acceptance of PVC containers by the consuming public, and the result of the Bailie Associates report. You will recall that it was during the response period subsequent to BATF's publishing their proposal in the Federal Register, that the problems with FDA arose. It would be hoped that upon resolving our problems with that BATF would go back to their previous state of proposing the approval of PVC liquor bottles.

In discussing the possible actions that BATF might take in this situation with Tom McGrath, he is of the opinion that there have been some actions that may cause BATF to take a different stand on this question even if we are able to resolve the problems with FDA. One of the circumstances that has ~~been~~ in the interim period had been the availability of the report on incinerator corrosion, work done at the Battelle Memorial Institute. Notwithstanding, the fact that we have given this work a critical review, and

SPI-23554

passed comments on the Battelle report through the Kaller and Hackman office for submission EPA, there is a high degree likelihood that this work will be used by EPA to pressure BATF into withholding approval for PVC liquor bottles.

In order to be as fully prepared as possible to take action with BATF, subsequent to resolving our problems with FDA, Tom McGrath and I feel that it would be appropriate to review this situation with Jerry Hackman to determine if there is anything more that might be done at this time to clear the way for a rapid approval with BATF. Tom McGrath and I will be available to discuss this situation with you or Jerry Hackman if it seems to be appropriate.

JRL:mjh

cc: Tom McGrath