

PVC SAFETY GROUP
FIRE SAFETY COMMITTEE

Keller & Heckman
Washington, D.C.

Thursday, May 14, 1981
10:00 A.M.

Attendees:

H. J. Hall	Conoco Chemicals, Box 1267, Ponca City, OK 74601 405-767-3004
Mark Labovitz	Diamond Shamrock Plastics Corp., Box 348, Painesville, OH 44077 216-357-3176
Michael O'Mara	B. F. Goodrich Chemical Co., 6100 Oak Tree Blvd., Cleveland, OH 44131 216-447-6296
Russell A. Park	Hooker Chemicals & Plastics Corp., P.O. Box 699, Pottstown, PA 19464 215-326-2000
John R. Samancik	Diamond Shamrock Plastics Corp., P.O. Box 348, Painesville, OH 44077 216-357-3544
Gregory Smith	B. F. Goodrich Chemical Co., P.O. Box 122, Avon Lake, OH 44012 301-869-5460
Wayne Sorenson	Tenneco Chemicals, Turner Place, Piscataway, NJ 08854 201-981-5170
George H. Wear	General Tire & Rubber Co., One General St., Newcomerstown, OH 45832 614-498-2900
Larry Wheeler	Shell Chemical Co., P.O. Box 2463, Houston, TX 77001 713-241-3074

SPI Staff:

John Eldred	Keller & Heckman, 1150 17th St., NW, Washington, D.C. 20036 202-457-1176
Jerome P. Carroll	SPI, 355 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY 10017 212-573-9400
John R. Lawrence	SPI, 355 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY 10017 212-573-9400

1. John Lawrence served as Chairman of this Committee inasmuch as it was a re-organization meeting. After self-introductions approval of the proposed agenda (attached) was agreed to.
2. There was general discussion of the various allegations concerning the "hazards" of PVC in fires that have been made in the recent past. It was agreed that these allegations are unsupported by scientific data and are speculative and unwarranted in light of existing data. All of the scientific evidence demonstrates that PVC in a combustion situation is not unreasonably dangerous or hazardous.

3. Mr. Carroll outlined the nature of combustibility research work being done by SPI's CCCS. After discussing the specific activities of CCCS it was apparent that these programs will not supply the specific information with respect to some of the alleged hazards and to address the way the allegations might be scientifically rebutted.
4. In considering alternatives for possible future activities, it was deemed that it might be useful to identify the various alleged hazards and address ways of providing simultaneously valid explanations and responses. Some further testing may be required, not to establish the safety of PVC (which is already established), but to demonstrate that the allegations have no basis of fact.
5. It was agreed that a recommendation would be made to the PVC Safety Group's Steering Committee at its meeting on May 28 that the Fire Safety Committee should be reinstated as a functioning group. If this recommendation is approved, a meeting of the Fire Safety Committee should be convinced to develop specific plans.
6. The tentative date of June 23 was selected for reconvening in the event that the Steering Committee authorizes such action.

Respectfully submitted,



John R. Lawrence
Technical Director

JRL:iw

att.

*Proposed
Agenda*

*accepted as basis for meeting
of PVC Fire Safety Committee
on 5/14/81. JRG*

I. Background

- A. Allegations surrounding combustibility of plastics in general and PVC in particular.

II. Current Situation

- A. Litigation
- B. Current CCCS Research and Testing Programs and Future Plans

III. Role of PVC Safety Group and PVC Fire Committee

- A. Possible alternatives
 - 1. Technical Support for Litigation
 - 2. Literature Search
 - 3. Identification of Outside Experts
 - 4. Future Research
 - a. Independent of CCCS
 - b. With CCCS
 - c. Combination of both

IV. Recommendations and Future Action