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PCB - MKLg

DRAFT
LETTER TO HEAT TRANSFER CUSTOMERS

Dear Sir:

We are writing to adivse you that effective December 1, 1971 Monsanto will no longer manufacture or sell the Therminol FR series of heat transfer fluids.

As you are already aware, the Therminol FR series fluids are polychlorinated biphenyls and, as such, are members of the so-called PCB family. During 1970 and 1971 evidence continued to mount showing the PCB's were persistent materials building up in the environment and entering the food chain. In mid-1970 Monsanto took action to eliminate all sales and usage of these materials in the so-called "open system" such as adhesives, caulking compounds, paints, etc. Similar action was taken in early 1971 to eliminate the usage of PCB's in hydraulic fluids where it was recognized that it was impossible to control leakage and escape to the environment.

Until now we have continued to sell PCB's for such applications as heat transfer fluids and dielectric fluids believing in these applications the fluids were being used in closed systems and that it would be possible to control escape and possible contamination of the environment.

Recent events, however, have shown clearly that the heat transfer usage of these fluids cannot be handled in this manner and there is a real and continuing danger of spills and leakages entering water courses or contaminating other materials resulting in entry into the food chain. A dramatic demonstration of these hazards occurred in the well known "East Coast Terminal Incident" where a leaking Therminol FR heat transfer system contaminated 16,000 tons of fish meal resulting in the need to destroy some 35,000 (?) chickens and 40,000 (?) eggs as they were deemed unfit for human consumption.

Following the East Coast Terminal incident we have been endeavoring to persuade heat transfer customers to phase out of the Therminol FR series of products and change to other fluids which we believe will be less likely to create problems of this type in the future. At the same time we took the decision to remove Therminol FR fluids from the _____ heat exchanger units operating in Monsanto's own plants.

In spite of all these actions we now consider that the only way to resolve this problem is to completely discontinue the manufacture and sale of Therminol FR series fluids.

We fully appreciate that this is a drastic decision and that we may well have created a short term problem for you and many other Monsanto customers. However, we know there are several other alternate fluids available on the market and, although these materials do not have the same degree of fire resistance as the PCB's, it should be possible to use them in your system subject to certain minor modifications. In changing to one of these alternate materials we are convinced that your actions will be in the best interests of the general public in this country and will also afford your company maximum protection from undesirable publicity, State and Federal actions, and possible law suits.

Our primary objective is to give you maximum assistance in changing over to another fluid and we are therefore making available to you the following special services:

1) We have assembled a team of experienced engineers who will be available to visit your plant on request to advise you on the best possible way of changing your system to an alternative fluid, either Monsanto's or a competitive material. If you consider such a service would be of assistance to you please telephone

(Special Telephone Number)

or write directly to Dr. Cumming Paton, Monsanto Industrial Chemicals Company, (Special Post Office Box Number), St. Louis Missouri.

2) We will take back the Therminol FR fluid currently in your system and incinerate this material at our plant in St. Louis. Freight and incineration costs will be borne by Monsanto. Attached are detailed instructions covering drainage, drumming, and shipping of material to our facility in St. Louis.

3) We will accept return of any unopened drums of Therminol FR series products which may be in your possession and credit you for this material at full purchase price if returned to us prior to March 1, 1972.

We regret very sincerely that we are no longer able to supply you with Therminol FR series products and hope that change-over to an alternate fluid can be made with a minimum of inconvenience to your operations. However, we consider the environmental and human health problems associated with PCB's are such that we are taking the only course available

to us to ensure that we minimize the risk of future spillage and possible contamination of the food chain.

Yours Sincerely,

John Mason, Director
Functional Products Groups
Monsanto Industrial Chemicals Co.

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