

Monsanto

John E. Fox

YEC/MOB

382

CONFIDENTIAL 6614
MDS

DATE: May 17, 1976

SUBJECT: VINYL CHLORIDE IN HCL

TO:

W. C. Fuller
N. L. Marsh

cc: J. A. Glass
E. H. Jones
✓ M. R. Johnson
J. L. Rasmussen
G. L. Stacy
D. R. Wise

It has come to my attention that the purchased anhydrous HCl used in styrene and lactic acid production contains 42-410 ppm vinyl chloride. Since vinyl chloride is now on the OSHA list of cancer suspect agents and is covered by an individual substance standard, it behoves us to determine the final disposition of the material in our process operations. I feel that it is particularly important that we be able to prove that personnel exposures are below the permissible limits and that no vinyl chloride ends up in our food grade materials.

In talking with PT personnel closely associated with the two units, it is believed very highly unlikely that vinyl chloride could survive the processes and reach the final products or be vented to flare or atmosphere. In styrene, the vinyl chloride is more highly reactive than ethylene so it should not get through the alkylation step unvented. If any ended up in the ethylbenzene it would be expected to selectively react with the dehydro catalyst. The final disposition is not quite so clear cut in the lactic acid unit.

It is suggested that all atmospheric vents that could possibly vent vinyl chloride from the process should be checked. In addition, we should assure ourselves by analysis that the product streams are free of vinyl chloride.

John E. Fox
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*We tried to tell Banfoot, et al.
but they wouldn't listen. We are
just ahead of our time!*

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