

BFG TECHNICAL DOCUMENT

M I N U T E S

VINYL CHLORIDE SAFETY ASSOCIATION MEETING

Atlanta, Georgia

February 27, 1976

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Representatives of 24 VCM and PVC producers met in a one-day meeting for discussion of the preparations made to meet the April 1, 1976 effective date for OSHA vinyl chloride regulations. Representatives commented on these items:

- Average VCM Plant Readings
- VCM Sampling Method and Number of Points
- Types of Masks
- Medical Surveillance--Effect of Solicitors Decision
- Position on Outside Contractors
- Residual VCM in PVC

The attached chart shows the position of each company in these areas.

General Discussion Items

3M has a new type of mask for 10 ppm VCM, which has been submitted for NIOSH approval.

General Tire & Rubber has had three employee complaints to OSHA on breathing air. They also have a pregnant female who has worked in the regulated area for six months; she is expecting in May. Personal monitoring is being conducted 100% of her time in the regulated area.

Firestone has submitted a variance to extend the optional use of respiratory equipment for 25 ppm VCM for an additional six months. Later it was learned this variance was denied by OSHA.

Because of the URW, Firestone's medical examinations are on an optional basis. Twelve employees have refused examination and are continuing to work in regulated areas. The Department of Labor's solicitor, Mr. B. Mintz, ruled December 4, 1975, that employees are not required to submit to medical examination, which the employer is required to make available under the vinyl chloride standard. This ruling pertained to the Pottstown, Pennsylvania Firestone plant where twelve employees refused examination. Except for Firestone, the other company representatives were fairly unanimous in reporting no problems.

Tenneco has had some employees experience nosebleeds from breathing bottled air. They plan to humidify the air and heat with chromolax heat tape.

Atlantic Tubing has had a new plant on stream for about one month. Except during upsets, they have found no VCM in monitoring the area. Their ventilation enters through the roof, passes through the floor, and exits at the lower sides. They have not regulated this operation.

Tenneco was recently inspected by OSHA. The compliance officer collected five 1-1/2 hour samples with Sipin pumps. He also used MSA color tube detectors. He had a cartridge mask but did not wear it. Several employees were questioned on the adequacy of training. Union representatives were asked to select the areas for collecting air samples.

Several companies have canisters available, but very few are used.

All producers reported varying degrees of difficulty in reducing RVCM levels without degradation of the PVC. Levels in general were slightly above those we experience. The most significant response was "RVCM is a function of silo residence time."

John Barr of Air Products presented a short review of the EPA standard. However, until the final version is published at mid-year, little action will take place. Several representatives expressed the thought that their company would not rush in to comply, and in general, expressed fear of a moving target--equal the best known technology.

Robert Dostal of Dow presented an outline of their plans for EPA monitoring to satisfy the leak detection and control procedure requirement:

1. Use OSHA fixed monitoring devices for leak detection.
2. Locate source with portable hydrocarbon detector.
3. Have a program for detector calibration.
4. Establish points to be monitored routinely by hand meter:
 - a. Moving shafts, vent stacks, frequently used valves, etc. (develop statistical frequency for monitoring).
 - b. But, do not test after press check of equipment.
5. Publish a plan of action.
6. Definition of leak:
25 ppm is a leak, also two subsequent excursions above
5 ppm at 1 sample point.

A fall meeting is planned at Denver, Colorado.

T. R. Linak
H. Waltemate

/k
attachment

<u>VCM Producers</u>	<u>Ambient Levels</u>	<u>Personal Levels</u>	<u>Sampling Methods</u>	<u>Masks</u>	<u>Medical Surveillance</u>	<u>Position on Contractors</u>	<u>Residual VCM in PVC</u>
Allied Chemical	.3-.7 ppm	.05	2-10 point flame ionization—going to G.C.	Canister Air Pak Air Line	Condition of Employment	No outside contractors	-
Dow Chemical	< 1 ppm	<1 ppm	12, 30, 36 point flame ionization	Canister Air Line	No Problems	Contractor's Responsibility	-
Ethyl Corporation	.5-1 ppm	68% <1 ppm	10 point Miran I.R. going to G.C.	Canister 1/4 + FF Air Line	No Refusals	Contractor's Responsibility	-
PPG Industries	< .5-1 ppm	.4-.8 ppm	9 point Arcus GC system	FF Air Line	Do not permit women of child bearing age	No outside contractors	-
Shell	.4-.7 ppm	71% <1 89% <.5 94% <1	Use bags for personal monitoring	1/4 + FF Air Line	Condition of Employment	Evacuate at .5 ppm	-
<u>Closed Poly Mode</u>							
General Tire	1 ppm		16 point flame ionization and Miran I.R.	Canister Air Line	No Problems	Contractor's Responsibility	10 ppm extrusion 50 ppm calender 50 ppm copolymer
Stauffer	0-.5 ppm	.2-.2 ppm 70% <1 ppm 30% 1-3.5 ppm	16 point Arcus GC 90 point system	Canister 1/4 + FF Air Line	Condition of Employment	Provide Examinations and Equipment	<3-10 ppm homopolymer <50-100 ppm copolymer
<u>Open Air Plants</u>							
Conoco		3 ppm	30-40 points Honeywell	Combination Canister and Air Line, Air Pak	No Problems	Contractor's Responsibility. Offer medical examinations.	2.9% <1 ppm 45.7% 1-10 ppm 37.1% 10-25 ppm 14.3% >25 ppm
Diamond	.5-2 ppm		48 point Arcus GC	Canister 1/4 + FF Air Line	Condition of Employment	Short-term Contractor's Responsibility. Long-term same as employees	10-50 ppm
Georgia-Pacific	< 1 ppm	.25 ppm	12 point Bendix G.C.	Canister Air Pak FF Air Line	Condition of Employment	Notify if 1 ppm is exceeded	90% <10 GP
Goodyear	.3-1.6 ppm	<.5 ppm	10-20 point Bendix	1/4 Air Line	Condition of Employment	Evacuate at 5 ppm	5 ppm Average Usually 30-40 ppm Fluoramine Plant
Air Products	1-2 ppm		20-30 points flame ionization	Canister 1/4 Air Line	Condition of Employment	Medical Examinations Provided	<5-50 ppm homopolymer 100 ppm Acetate
<u>Other</u>							
Firestone	2-5 ppm Dryer Area 5-10 ppm Reactor Area		12 point Miran I.R.	Canister Air Line (See Note)	(See Note)	Contractor's Responsibility. Evacuate at 25 ppm.	50-200 ppm copolymer 5-50 ppm suspension <1-5 ppm paste
Tenneco		1-3 ppm	70 point Bendix G.C.	Canister Air Line from Bottles	Condition of Employment	Contractor's Responsibility. Evacuate at 5 ppm	<10 ppm usually
Union Carbide	.5 ppm Dryer Area 2 ppm Reactor Area 2.5 ppm Recovery Area		30 point VFA	Canister Air Pak Air Line Bottles	Condition of Employment (6 refusals)	Contractor's Responsibility. Show them slide/tape.	<1 ppm solvent <10 ppm homopolymer 300 ppm copolymer
Pentapote	2.3 ppm	Using Area Monitoring	18 point Miran and 48 point Bocom	1/4 Air Line	Condition of Employment	Contractor's Responsibility. Evacuate at 5 ppm	10-50 ppm homopolymer
Borden	1-3 ppm		Converted from THA to GC	Canister Air Line	No Problems 3 Females in Regulated Areas		
Certain-Tied			12 Miran I.R. Going to 30 Point GC	1/4 + FF Air Line	Condition of Employment	Contractor's Responsibility	<25 ppm pipe grade
Great American		60% <1 ppm	30 point Arcus GC	1/4 Air Line	No Problems	Inform Contractor	<10 ppm for shipment
Hooker	500 readings over 5 ppm in a month	3 ppm	60 point GC	Canister Air Line	Union questioning their medical program; going to arbitration.	Inform Contractor	10 ppm
Keysor Century		3-4 ppm	Recently installed 16 point Hewlett-Packard G.C.	Dual flow Canister with Air Line	Condition of Employment	No contractor in Regulated Areas	100-200 ppm copolymer