

INTER-OFFICE MEMO

TENNECO CHEMICALS, INC.

To G. I. Rozand

At Piscataway

DATE July 2, 1974

FROM W.C. Champion

AT Burlington

COPY TO ~~File~~

SUBJECT Compound Plant Quality

bcc: P. Gawason

As the June Summary Report will show, Compound Plant quality again dropped - to 50% Grade I from 59% in May. This continues a trend of deteriorating quality begun in March. Analysis of the data suggests that most of the problems are related to substitute raw materials, including resin, plasticizer, stabilizer and filler. A smaller proportion of problems relate to manufacturing difficulties such as contamination and oversize.

Many of these problems could be solved - and the proportion of Grade I material increased - by better coordination and cooperation between Manufacturing, Marketing and R&D. Specific suggestions as to where this would be effective include:

1. A recognition that Reposa resin yields lower electrical properties. New VR specifications from R&D plus an acceptance of these specifications by Marketing will significantly reduce out-of-specification wire compound.
2. Better target properties in SPA's. We are currently grading many SPA runs in accordance with standard compound specifications, even though the changes made are expected to alter the compound properties.
3. More lead time (where possible) on raw material substitutions, so that production problems can be anticipated and product specifications revised where appropriate.

A meeting to review these and other approaches to improve compound quality has been scheduled for July 23rd.

W.C. Champion

WCC/jst

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