

DRAFT

OF-VC/PVC-***



SHELL CHEMICAL COMPANY

A DIVISION OF SHELL OIL COMPANY

ONE SHELL PLAZA

P.O. BOX 2463

HOUSTON, TEXAS 77001

July 6, 1973

To Shell VCM Customers

Gentlemen:

The necessity for limiting and controlling human exposure to high concentrations of vinyl chloride has been long recognized. The most recent Manufacturing Chemists Association safety data sheet for vinyl chloride recommends a ceiling value of 500 ppm vinyl chloride for exposures. A copy of this data sheet is enclosed for your information. The 500 ppm ceiling value also has been specified by the Department of Labor, under the Occupational Safety and Health Act, as the permitted employee exposure level to vinyl chloride.

In June of 1972, the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists (ACGIH) adopted an eight hour time weighted average Threshold Limit Value (TLV) of 200 ppm (vol/vol) for vinyl chloride. Documentation covering the considerations leading to the adoption of this value may be obtained by request to the chairman, TLV Committee, American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists, P.O. Box 1937, Cincinnati, Ohio 45201.

~~NOT~~ While the ACGIH adopted a 200 ppm level for vinyl chloride, the TLV Documentation acknowledges studies which recommend levels from 50 ppm to 500 ppm. As you may be aware, the Manufacturing Chemists

Shell
MSDS
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a sheet

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Association has contracted with consultants, on behalf of a group of vinyl chloride producers and consumers to conduct animal exposure studies and a comprehensive epidemiology study of vinyl chloride workers. It is hoped that results from these studies will aid in clarifying what exposure limitation would be most appropriate. However, until these results are available and in view of the range in recommendations, we thought you would wish to know that we consider it prudent to establish a TLV of ^{vinyl chloride} 50 ppm, ^{because} ~~for vinyl chloride~~ especially ~~in much as~~ ^{measurements made in our} plant indicate that it is possible, at least in our operations, to ^{stay below} ~~reach~~ ^{this} ~~eight hour time-weighted average~~ exposure levels, to 50 ppm vinyl chloride. ~~Undoubtedly you have given recent~~ ^{We urge you to give} consideration to the vinyl chloride exposure levels which may be appropriate for your operations.

We would be pleased to make available the techniques which ^{measuring} we use for low concentrations of vinyl chloride if you would consider them helpful.

Very truly yours,

R. J. Reynolds
Shell Chemical Company
Vinyl Chloride Business Center

Attach: MCA Safety Data Sheet

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