

*Mem'l PB-164
Letter to customers*

D. H. Marshall

Valencia, Venezuela

A. L. Hatfield

Cleveland

Feb. 11, 1974

Dear Don,

Enclosed please find a copy of a letter which we want you to send out to all of your vinyl product customers in B.F. Goodrich Chemical de Venezuela. This letter is being sent out to all customers of B.F. Goodrich Chemical worldwide.

Please do not release to customers until Friday, February 15, 1974.

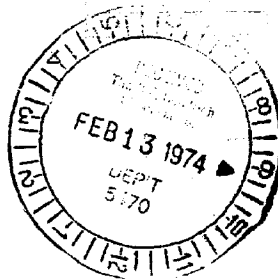
We would like you to make immediate use of this letter in the text provided and give us a list of all customers who received the letter. This should receive high priority attention.

ALH/cak

Enclosure

cc: R.F. Kenney
W.C. Becker-Akron
M.W. Larson
P.J. Weaver

DATE & CIRC	
M. W. LARSON	☒
A. MELBY	☐
J. M. HYSLOP	☐
C. D. SEGARR	☐
B. K. BOLDEN	☐
G. A. PAGE	☐
P. J. BRYER	☐
J. D. ALLEN	☐
R. L. HYMAN	☐
W. W. WILSON	☐



24738001

BFG34115

A. Mata Blanco

San Jose, Costa Rica

A. L. Hatfield

Cleveland

Feb. 11, 1974

Dear Al,

Enclosed please find a copy of a letter which we want you to send out to all of your vinyl product customers in B.F. Goodrich Quimica de Costa Rica. This letter is being sent out to all customers of B.F. Goodrich Chemical worldwide.

Please do not release to customers until Friday, February 15, 1974.

We would like you to make immediate use of this letter in the text provided and give us a list of all customers who received the letter. This should receive high priority attention.

ALH/cak

Enclosure

cc: R.P. Kenney
W.C. Becker-Akron
M.W. Larson
P.J. Weaver

24738002

BFG34116

February 11, 1974

Mr. Ivan Becka
Policyd, S.A.
Apartado Postal 53-054
Mexico City 17, D.F.

Dear Ivan,

You will find enclosed a letter which B.F. Goodrich Chemical Co. is sending to all of our customers throughout the world for our vinyl products. The text of this letter has been carefully considered by our Management and Corporate Legal staff.

We are providing you this letter so that if it is, in your opinion, in the best interests of Policyd to utilize such a letter, you might utilize the text that we have provided.

It is, of course, your prerogative if you wish to utilize such a letter for your customers. However, if you do use the text, we ask that you not release it until Friday, February 15, 1974.

We would like to be aware of your course of action in this regard.

Cordially yours,

A. L. Hatfield

ALH/esk

cc: R.P. Kenney
W.C. Becker-Akron
H.W. Larson
P.J. Weaver

24738003

BFG34117

Dear Sir:

On January 23, 1974, a public statement was released by The B.F. Goodrich Company concerning our investigation of the deaths of three employees at our Louisville, Ky. plant from a rare form of liver cancer, and the possible connections between these deaths and their work over a number of years in our PVC polymerization operations.

Later search of available medical records revealed that a fourth employee had died from the same cause, angiosarcoma of the liver, in 1968.

At the time of issuing our first statement on January 23, B.F. Goodrich provided all data we had at that time to the Kentucky Department of Labor, representative of the Federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and to the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). These agencies are currently investigating these cases, are carrying out industry-wide epidemiological studies, and are in contact with European governments with major PVC industries. We are continuing to cooperate fully with these agencies.

Also cooperating with the government are 19 producers of vinyl chloride monomer and PVC under sponsorship of the Manufacturing Chemists Association, 1825 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009. This group is sponsoring lengthy and in-depth toxicological and epidemiological studies on vinyl chloride and workers.

As yet no definite connection has been established between these four angiosarcoma cases and any of the some 50 chemicals which may have been used in polymerization of PVC or its compounds at our Louisville plant. Vinyl chloride monomer, a chlorinated hydrocarbon, is a primary suspect due to the fact it is a major raw material of high volatility to which our employees have probably had the greatest exposure. It should be pointed out that study of medical records at our other five plants have revealed no similar cases, and no others in the United States have been reported.

As you may know, some residual unpolymerized vinyl chloride monomer remains in commercial polyvinyl chloride polymers and compounds. The levels in Geon resins, plastics and latexes range from virtually undetectable levels to those high enough to suggest the possibility of detectable vapor concentrations in closed storage or in some processing steps, such as heated mixing equipment.

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We are in no position to determine if the manner in which our vinyl products are used and stored in your plant constitute a potential problem since these operations are not under our control. We do, however, suggest that you review your own operational procedures and take appropriate action.

We would like to point out that the present investigations are confined to polymerization operations where the amount of vinyl chloride, the starting monomer, is much higher than it would be in any process we know involving finished polymer or compounds. In our plants we have reduced exposure to levels below 50ppm of vinyl chloride.

It is not the intent of this memorandum to state that the cause of angiosarcoma of the liver is exposure to vinyl chloride monomer but to point out to our customers that small, variable amounts of this raw material remain in the polymer in unchanged form and that it is one of the suspected chemicals.

We will do our best to keep you informed on this subject as investigations proceed.

Sincerely,

R. P. Kenney
Vice President - International

BFG34119

24738005

We are in no position to determine if the manner in which our vinyl products are used and stored in your plant constitute a potential problem since these operations are not under our control. We do, however, suggest that you review your own operational procedures and take appropriate action.

We would like to point out that the present investigations are confined to polymerization operations where the amount of vinyl chloride, the starting monomer, is much higher than it would be in any process we know involving finished polymer or compounds. In our plants we have reduced exposure to levels below 50ppm of vinyl chloride.

It is not the intent of this memorandum to state that the cause of angiosarcoma of the liver is exposure to vinyl chloride monomer but to point out to our customers that small, variable amounts of this raw material remain in the polymer in unchanged form and that it is one of the suspected chemicals.

We will do our best to keep you informed on this subject as investigations proceed.

Sincerely,

R. P. Kenney
Vice President - International

24738005

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