Monsanto

O PALM STOCKHOLM

DATE July 7th, 1971

SUBJECT PCB SWEDEN

REFERENCE OP:yj

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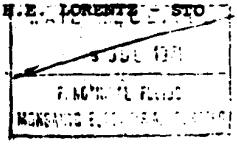


Reference is made to your inquiry about the formulation of the Swedish proposed law for PCB-handling.

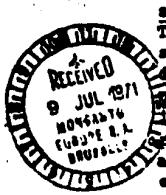
The proposal given for this law states the following:
" The National Environmental Board proposes that import, manufacure and sales of PCB or of substances, material and products containing such substances (PCB) is forbidden. Possibility for exception from this prohibition can be given mainly with regard to PCB in electrical transformers and such larger electrical capacitors which are called Power (correction) capacitors. The board furthermore proposes that special rules should be made for the handling of PCB containers, scrapped PCB containing equipment, PCB containing waste material etc. The new rules are suggested to come in forth 1st of January 1972.

In order to facilitate the change over within industry, according to the board PCB can be used in limited quantities even after January and for a limited time of period. This will be possible through special licences in each individual case."

January 1st 1972

The above proposal for law has been submitted to a number of bodies of government character of which all have approved in principal. The customs authorities have mentioned that the prohibition to import PCB should be confined only to the material PCB. The possibilities to control import is considered to be too difficult with regard to tracing PCB in electrical capacitors, plastic products, painted goods etc.

The Minister of agriculture responsible for this question supports the attitude of the customs board. He suggests that prohibition to import should be confined to PCB as such. This product group is not manufactured in the country. The control whether PCB is part of imported goods like radio sets, automobiles, plastic goods, painted goods is very difficult. Also the prohibition for import as a group should not be total. The largest use for PCB is as electric insulator in transformers and so called power capacitors in the electrical power production and distribution. Since replacement materials are as yet not available and risk for spreading PCB from such equipment, is judged as small.



it is suggested that the import of PCB for such usage should be permitted until further notice. The condition for such import must however be that special handling precautions can be made aiming at reducing the risk of PCB getting into the environment, for instance by unsuitable destruction.

In order to prevent spreading of goods, where environmental hazard is involved due to presence of PCB, His Majesties Government should decide which authority should be given right to prohibit import or describe conditions for sales of such goods. Such right should be focused on products containing high volumes of PCB or products with low volume but with large sales.
.....An investigation will be started which products can be involved. It is clear however, that certain paints, gasketing materials and hydrolic oils are the most dangerous for the environmen
..... One condition for sale of such PCB containing goods will be that the goods clearly indicate how they should be handled particularly when discarded, in order to avoid PCB being spread into the environment."

It may also be of interest to see what uses have been mentioned in the law proposal.

Capacitors approx. 375 tons p.a. of which 250 p.a. in finished products for export.
Transformers total approx. 175 units in the country containing 500-2.000 kilo PCB per unit.
Paints approx. 35 tons p.a.
Sealing compunds 40-45 tons p.a.
Hydrolic oils 8-10 tons p.a.
Heat transfer media 8-10 tons in existing units.

Regards

O. Palm