

To: (See Attached Distribution List) Date: June 20, 1975

From: Dr. A. B. Steele

Subject: Vinyl Resin Operations
Flash Report

Vinyl Chloride Monomer

OSHA Matters

The Steering Committee of the VCM/PVC Producers group (SPI) is attempting to evaluate strategies to deal with the OSHA Standard as of April 1, 1976 when the limit of exposure will be 1 ppm (8-hour TWA) and respirators will be sanctioned only on a temporary basis while engineering controls are implemented by plan to bring operations into compliance. We have recommended to the Steering Committee that Amendments to the OSHA Standard be proposed to the Secretary of Labor who has agreed in Court actions that the present limits is beyond the technical capability of the industry. Review leading to a more workable Standard could be centered on the following issues:

- a) Whether any significant risk remains once exposures are reduced to the 1 - 10 ppm range.
- b) Whether any quantifiable reduction of risk can occur within this range by a reduction of VCM levels from 10 ppm to 1 ppm.
- c) Whether the use of respirators to achieve the lower of these levels introduces greater risk of injury or death from fire or explosion.

Non-Solvent Resins

Operations are proceeding satisfactorily with rates slowly increasing. Aim is to have three reacting autoclaves on the line equal to about 70 M lbs. per day of production, capacity operation.

Suspension Resins

VSJE continues on the North Line and QSQH is now back on the South Line after producing 2.0 million pounds of QSAL. Vacuum stripping conditions have been moderated somewhat to reduce color development. Consideration is now being given to stabilizer addition to the blowdown tank to retard degradation. Plans also call for a recheck of the Klucel recipe which produced a more porous, easier to strip particle. With the exception of the above mentioned color problems, quality has been excellent with no evidence of glass beads in the homopolymer.

Specialty Resins

Resin manufacturing shut down due to high inventory.

Resin Solution sales continue to grow. An order for AU-30 was received from Borden.

A. B. Steele

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