May 6, 1964

Mr. Thomas Weil
Box 2751
Raytheon Company
Wayland, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Weil:

Mr. Graham in our New York office has requested that we send you some information relative to the toxicity and safe handling of Aroclors.

Enclosed is a reprint of the technical literature describing the results of vapor inhalation studies with Aroclors 1242 and 1254. Our interpretation of these data are that there is little vapor inhalation hazard when these fluids are handled in a closed system or when handled at room temperature. Further, we do not believe that there is any acute toxicity problem from an occasional exposure that might result when the fluids are heated to 160°F. Continuous day in and day out exposure to the vapors evolved at this temperature would be undesirable.

The Aroclors are not strong skin irritants. The local action on the skin is more similar to that of a paint thinner or paint remover where prolonged skin contact results in defatting or removing the natural skin surface oils and fats from the skin. This obviously leads to drying and cracking.

There is no great hazard from the standpoint of skin absorption if there is occasional short term skin exposure as in the case with inhalation. However, repeated and prolonged skin contact should be avoided to prevent the local action on the skin referred to above and to eliminate the hazard of skin absorption.

If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Very truly yours,

Elmer P. Wheeler, Manager
Environmental Health

EPW:mjb
cc. G. R. Graham - NY
G.R. Buchanan - St. L.

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