

Manufacturing Chemists' Association, Inc.

(FOUNDED 1872)

1825 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20009

October 7, 1966

TO: MCA Executive Committee

FROM: Occupational Health Committee

SUBJECT: PVC Resin Manufacturing Health Hazard

On October 6, 1966, the Occupational Health Committee met with various manufacturers of polyvinyl chloride and discussed evidence made available by a member company indicating a possible occupational health problem associated with a step in the manufacture of polyvinyl chloride resins. While the evidence presented is highly correlated with a specific step in the manufacture of these resins, there is need for confirmation of this by other manufacturers.

Although the exact cause has not been determined and the proportion of exposed persons affected does not appear to be high, the nature of the effects are such that the Committee has concluded that the problem requires vigorous and wide investigation. The Committee finds that the condition may not be recognized unless special medical surveys are carried out. The clinical manifestations are such as to suggest the possibility of a disabling disease as a later development. Although there is no evidence to suggest that there is a risk associated with the use or handling of the finished polyvinyl chloride resin, it is of importance to the industry that this be documented and confirmed by studies of exposed groups within member companies.

groups to be studied should include persons engaged in (a) the manufacture of vinyl chloride monomer, (b) the manufacture of polyvinyl chloride resins, and (c) the fabrication of polyvinyl chloride consumer products within member companies producing these products.

Uniform medical observations are necessary so that the data may be combined and compared. In essence, the survey will include a brief medical history of the employee, and examinations and X-rays of the hands. The Committee will provide participating companies with detailed recommendations.

Industry-Sponsored Toxicological Research

The Committee concludes that a cooperatively sponsored toxicological research program should be initiated in order to determine the cause, mechanism of action, and preventive measures necessary. This research program and the in-plant study program should operate concurrently.

The Committee recommends that it be authorized to both contact a competent institution of its selection to establish this program and to maintain supervision of same. It is estimated that at least \$100,000 will be necessary.

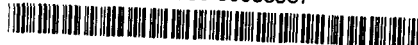
MCA-Sponsored Symposium

Up to the present, full knowledge of this condition has been limited to three companies in the United States. It is not anticipated that this situation will continue in light of the wider dissemination resulting from the MCA-sponsored meeting of October 6 and the proposed program of investigation. Therefore, it is the conclusion of the Committee that precise information must be made available to the scientific community, and it is proposed that an MCA-sponsored symposium under the auspices of the Occupational Health Committee be held during the summer of 1967.

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Subsequently, the Occupational Health Committee, following a full discussion of this medical problem, recommended certain steps to the Executive Committee of the Association as contained in the attached resolution dated October 7, 1966. The above-mentioned resolution was reported to the Executive Committee in its regular meeting October 11, 1966; and the problem was briefly discussed by Harry B. Warner, Vice President of the B. F. Goodrich Company. On his recommendation, the Executive Committee unanimously voted that the Occupational Health Committee should proceed with development of the program as set forth in parts 1, 2, and 3, of the resolution, including the procedures outlined in the explanatory paragraphs for these several items.

It is hoped this program can be developed in specific terms, including financial arrangement, and that these be reported to the Executive Committee in its meeting November 21 if possible.

F. H. Carman
F. H. Carman
Technical Director

FHC/bk

Attachment

October 13, 1966

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