

May 12, 1959

cc: V. K. Rowe (2)  
Correspondence  
T3.4-15-20

Mr. W. E. McCormick, Director  
Department of Industrial  
Hygiene and Toxicology  
The B. F. Goodrich Company  
500 So. Main Street  
Akron 18, Ohio

Dear Bill:

This is in reply to your letter of May 4 inquiring about the toxicological information we might have on vinyl chloride.

Insofar as I am aware, there is no good toxicological data in the literature of the chronic toxicity of vinyl chloride. As you know, the Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists has for some time been recommending a maximum average of 500 ppm. This figure is based upon the acute data of Patty, et al. and, hence, can not be relied upon to strongly when considering chronic exposures. Some years ago, we prepared a little writeup assuming that this figure was alright and a copy of it is enclosed to show you what we have said. I have added my comments to it for your information. I should add that in the last month we have been investigating vinyl chloride a bit and find it to be somewhat more toxic when given by repeated daily inhalations but it is too early yet to tell what vapor concentrations will be without adverse effect. We feel quite confident, however, that 500 ppm is going to produce rather appreciable injury when inhaled 7 hours a day, five days a week for an extended period.

As you can appreciate, this opinion is not ready for dissemination yet and I would appreciate it if you would hold it in confidence but use it as you see fit in your own operations. When more data becomes available, I will try to remember to pass it on to you.

Best regards.

Sincerely yours,

V. K. Rowe  
Biochemical Research Laboratory  
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V. K.

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