

Frankfurt, Germany
September 30, 1959

TO:

J. Burton

SUBJECT:

Bechringers - Chlorsene Problem

cc:

D. G. Brumback
J. A. Borer
J. E. Kerson
D. J. Porter
C. P. Coyb
H. S. Weiner

OCT 7 1959

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. Boardman	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Belmont	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Harbo	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Egan	
Mr. Gurnea	
Mr. Hendon	
Mr. Pennington	
Mr. Quinn	
Mr. Nease	
Miss Gandy	

The same cure announced by Bechringers in Chem. Week for June 20, 1959 is confirmed as inactive for chlorsene.

Bechringers has had no new cases of chlorsene in 3-5 years. They did this by discovering the compound which is the bad actor and eliminating it as a by-product. After they accomplished this processwise, they then cleaned up their factory in a major fashion before reopening - it was closed a year.

Dave Porter's memo of September 18, 1957 to you and yours to me of July 28, 1959 set forth substantially the requirements. As Dave points out, the bad actor is a tetrachlorobenzodioxine. As you pointed out, certain conditions of temperature in the process can cause the trouble.

In addition, even though Bechringers is sure it has no more dioxine in its process, it ventilates its plant with great care, issues clean work clothes every day and continuously checks its trichlorophenol on rabbit ears per the test described in the Dermatologica paper (Derm. 115, 540, 1957) copy of which you sent me.

Kudskus has reneged on sending out the report he promised Dave - says the dioxine is so active as to be a chemical warfare chemical. But we have all dope orally.

Do you distill TCP? This is said to be a most dangerous step. In distillation, if any alkali or salts are present, urine forms very rapidly. Recommend that alkali and salt be washed from crude TCP before distillation.

Referring to your points 1, 2 and 3 in your memo to me of Sept. 23, 1957 (H. S. Weiner has a copy):

DN 00017413

PORTER
DEPOSITION
EXHIBIT 3

J. E. Helder
Re: Boehringer - Chloroene Problem

-2-

September 30, 1959

1. After dilution with methanol, the reaction mass is only dangerous over 170° C.
2. Distill out major portion of methanol under 110°, then strip out remainder of methanol with steam preferably at 100° (120° C., cited by you said to be dangerous).

Boehringer offers to review your process conditions and advise of further danger points - if those ideas don't do the job.

Finally, after Boehringer did all the above, they tore out plaster walls, floors and similar parts of buildings until remaining structure gave positive rabbit ear test. This done by carefully protected workmen. Once clean and following above process steps, they have enjoyed good experience. Better try a few rabbit ears on your joint if you are still having trouble. Ch. J. Boehringer liver damage cases are still on compensation after more than five years!

Thornton P. Helder

JPH:ln
10/5/59

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