

PCB PREPAREDNESS Q & A

(To be used in answering UK and CONTINENT press queries following October 4 U.S. announcement and prior to a Monsanto Europe statement which is planned before month-end.)

- Q. What is the situation in the UK following the announcement by your parent Monsanto Company to stop PCB production next year?
- A. We anticipate that we will be shutting down production in our Monsanto Ltd. Newport facility as well. The timetable will not necessarily be the same as the Oct. 31, 1977 U.S. date. We are currently involved in discussions with the UK government and our UK customers and we expect to make a further announcement regarding our plans by the end of October.
- Q. Will your anticipated phase out also affect UK exports to the continent?
- A. When we finalize our phase out plans, they will affect all of our production and sales.
- Q. What affect will this have on employment at Newport?
- A. Monsanto Ltd's Newport PCB unit employs less than 10 people and there will be no redundancies since these men will be redeployed elsewhere at that location.
- Q. Why is Monsanto Ltd. pulling out now in view of the recent OECD directive which approved the continued use of PCBs in certain applications.
- A. While the OECD directive sanctioned the use of PCBs in certain limited applications, it reiterated an earlier recommendation that replacement products should be sought. We are told that the U.S. electrical power supply industry is zeroing in on replacement products so that we can now begin to phase out of dielectric applications for PCBs. This is totally consistent with our announced intentions (to withdraw as soon as possible) which we made public last January.
- Q. How many customers will be affected by Monsanto Ltd's phase out?
- A. Less than 10 major customers in the UK and about 10 major customers on the continent.

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- Q. Will your customers be able to buy PCBs from Monsanto Ltd. until they are ready with replacements?
- A. First, you must appreciate that we are not the only supplier of this material -- It is also manufactured in France, Germany and Spain. Some of our UK customers have already converted away from PCBs in the past few years. It is unlikely that our phase out will seriously disrupt the availability of capacitors and transformers in the UK or the continent.
- Q. Does this decision to phase out PCBs reflect your belief that they are hazardous materials?
- A. The higher chlorinated biphenyls do not readily biodegrade and, to varying degrees, they do tend to accumulate in tissue. This in itself suggests that they should be replaced if possible with products that are more biodegradable and less bioaccumulative.

NOTE: If a question comes up about carcinogenicity, use the following statement which you may attribute to George Roush, M.D., Director of Monsanto's Medical and Environmental Health Department:

"We have seen nothing in our preliminary health studies with our PCB workers or, indeed, in our extensive long-term feeding studies with animals that would indicate that PCBs are carcinogenic.

General Recommendations:

1. Avoid any comments that suggest liability.
2. Avoid any medical questions if possible.
3. Do not offer information on MCS 1238 or our development program. If a question comes up, say our development work was shelved in the late spring when it became obvious that our proprietary approach would not enable us to compete with the commodity type alternates being pursued by industry.
4. Make NO comments about the U.S. law suits that have been recently publicized.
5. Make no comments on the PCBs in mothers' milk stories that have been circulating in the U.S. press.
6. Feel free to use any of the information contained in the attached U.S. press release but avoid lifting phrases out of context.

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