

OxyChem[®]

AR201-13695
Responsible Care[®]
A Public Commitment

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Stephen B. Kemp
Vice President
Health, Environment & Safety

March 5, 2002

Honorable Christie Whitman, Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
P.O. Box 1473
Merrifield, VA 22116
Attn: Chemical Right-to-Know Program

**RE: HPV Commitments and Occidental Chemical Corporation (OxyChem)
Benzene, (dichloromethyl)-, CAS [98-87-3 – corrected to 29797-40-8]**

Dear Administrator Whitman:

As part of our overall obligation to the HPV Challenge we are providing updates and notifications to EPA on any changes in our previous commitments. This letter is to notify you of past changes for benzene, (dichloromethyl)- (CAS 98-87-3); in part since this chemical has apparently not been delisted as requested in 1999.

OxyChem had previously (November 19, 1999) submitted a letter to EPA (copy attached) noting that this chemical should be removed from the HPV list. With that letter we had also provided a previous letter to EPA (October 20, 1999) noting the CAS number was incorrect (copy attached).

Moreover, OxyChem has ceased production of this chemical and we do not know of another U.S. manufacturer. Therefore, we wish to have this chemical delisted from the current HPV program.

We are continuing to work on our HPV commitments.

Please contact me if further information is needed.

Sincerely,

Stephen B. Kemp
Vice-President, Health, Environment and Safety

CC: Mr. Steven K. Russell (ACC)
Mr. Jim Keith (ACC)
Ms. Ann Mason (Chlorine Chemistry Council)
Mr. Fred McEldowney (ACC – U.S. representative to ICCA)



Occidental Chemical Corporation
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OxyChem[®]

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A Public Commitment 

November 19, 1999

Carol Browner, Administrator
US EPA
P.O. Box 1473
Merrifield, VA 22116
Attn: Chemical Right-to-Know Program

Re: Benzene, (dichloromethyl)-, CAS [98-87-3] no longer HPV

Dear Administrator Browner:

Benzene, (dichloromethyl)- [98-87-3] should be removed from the HPV list or reclassified as "No longer meets the HPV criteria" for several reasons.

1. Occidental Chemical and Monsanto are the only identified manufacturers of [98-87-3].
2. Occidental Chemical filed a correction to the Inventory Update Report (enclosed). Occidental Chemical incorrectly reported [98-87-3]. The correct number should have been [29797-40-8] which is Benzene, dichloromethyl-.
3. Occidental Chemical does not anticipate significantly increasing production of this substance [29797-40-8] to the point where the amount would exceed one million pounds.
4. Occidental Chemical's internal production numbers for [29797-40-8] have remained relatively stable since 1990.
5. Unnecessary animal testing will be avoided.

Occidental Chemical previously committed to addressing data needs for [98-87-3] as part of our desire to deal responsibly with chemicals that we produce that were identified as High Production Volume chemicals on EPA's list. We wish to withdraw that commitment based on the information provided above. We believe that [98-87-3] should be considered "No longer meets the HPV criteria" and either removed from the HPV chemical list or categorized on the list as "No longer meets the HPV criteria."

Please contact me with questions.

Sincerely,

Steven J. Phillips, Ph.D.
Product Stewardship
972-404-2413
FAX 972-404-3287
(Enclosure)

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