



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION III
799 ROOSEVELT ROAD
GLEN ELLYN, ILLINOIS 60137

PDR

JUN 22 1979

Docket No. 40-3392

Allied Chemical Corporation
Speciality Chemicals Division
ATTN: Mr. J. H. Thomas
Plant Manager
Post Office Box 430
Metropolis, IL 62960

Gentlemen:

The enclosed IE Circular No. 79-09, is forwarded to you for information. If there are any questions related to your understanding of the suggested actions, please notify the contact listed in the enclosure to the circular.

Sincerely,


James G. Keppeler
Director

Enclosure: IE Circular
No. 79-09

cc w/encl:
Mr. A. D. Riley,
Plant Manager
Central Files
PDR
NSIC

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U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
OFFICE OF INSPECTION AND ENFORCEMENT

REGION III

June 22, 1979

IE Circular No. 79-09

OCCURRENCES OF SPLIT OR PUNCTURED REGULATOR DIAPHRAGMS IN CERTAIN SELF-CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS

Description of Circumstances:

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has been informed by mailgram (copy enclosed) from the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) of the high rate of regulator diaphragm failures in the Scott Air Pak II/IIA and Presur-Pak II/IIA self-contained breathing apparatus. The failures, ranging from pin holes in the diaphragm to complete diaphragm rupture, have been identified in about 10 percent of the units by the NIOSH field survey. Tests of the Scott apparatus by NIOSH showed reduced respiratory protection in the Demand-Mode and a loss of service time (but no loss of protection) in the Pressure Demand-Mode.

Notice to Licensees:

Many major licensees use the types of Scott apparatus described above. Users of the devices should take the following action:

1. Establish a program for examination of the described respiratory devices in accordance with the enclosed NIOSH mailgram; or
2. Incorporate the provisions of the NIOSH mailgram into your current program for inspection of the described devices.

No written response to this Circular is required. If you require additional information regarding this subject, please contact the individual specified in the enclosed mailgram.

Enclosure:

1. Mailgram
2. List of IE Circulars issued in last twelve months

281 210

DUPLICATE DOCUMENT

Entire document previously entered into system under:

ANO 7906290237

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