

DCB

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-III-88-89 Date December 22, 1989

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of events of POSSIBLE safety or public interest significance. The information is as initially received without verification or evaluation, and is basically all that is known by the Region III staff on this date.

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Facility: American Radiolabeled Chemicals St. Louis, MO	Licensee Emergency Classification: ___ Unusual Event ___ Alert ___ Site Area Emergency ___ General Emergency <u>x</u> ___ Not Applicable
License No. 24-21362-01	

Subject: IMPROPER SHIPMENTS OF TOXIC COMPOUNDS

In response to an allegation that the licensee was shipping improperly identified chemicals, Region III (Chicago) performed an onsite inspection on December 21, 1989 and determined that the licensee had shipped methyl bromide tagged with an NRC-licensed material (carbon-14) with shipping documents identifying the material as glucose containing carbon-14 on more than one occasion. The shipments were by air to a company in Switzerland. The inspection also determined that the licensee also used similar erroneous shipping documents for shipments of two cyanide compounds to the Swiss company. Part 71 of the NRC Rules and Regulations requires NRC licensees to comply with Department of Transportation (DOT) shipping regulations which include the use of proper chemical names on shipping papers.

Region III has notified the U.S. Customs Service and the DOT. The NRC Office of International Programs has notified Swiss authorities of the improper shipments. Region III is issuing a Confirmatory Action Letter (CAL) to the licensee requiring dual verification of labelling and packaging of all future shipments to ensure compliance with NRC requirements. The CAL also requires the licensee to obtain an independent organization to audit its shipping and packaging program.

The State of Missouri was notified.

Region III was informed of the inspection findings on December 21, 1989. This information is current as of 12:30 p.m., December 22, 1989.

CONTACT: <i>B. S. Mallett for</i> R. J. Caniano 388-5721	<i>B. S. Mallett</i> B. S. Mallett 388-5612
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