

October 27, 1999

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-I-99-049

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 Region I staff (King of Prussia, Pennsylvania) on this date.

Facility

Zeta Consumer Products  
Zeta Consumer Products  
555 Route 57 East  
Washington, New Jersey  
License No: N/A

Licensee Emergency Classification

Notification of Unusual Event  
Alert  
Site Area Emergency  
General Emergency  
X Not Applicable

Subject: OHMAR MODEL BAL KRYPTON-85 GAUGE FOUND IN WAREHOUSE

On Wednesday, October 27, 1999, the NRC learned that an Ohmart gauge containing krypton-85 was found in a warehouse on October 26 at the Zeta Consumer Products (Zeta) facility in Washington, New Jersey. The gauge was on a pallet, among items that had been sold by auction at the facility during the past two weeks. The individuals who noticed the gauge wrote down the information on the labels, and contacted the State of New Jersey who then contacted the NRC. The individuals had not spoken with anyone at the warehouse about finding the gauge. The individuals stated that the label indicated that the gauge is an Ohmart Model BAL, containing krypton-85. According to the label, the source in the gauge contained 1200 millicuries of krypton-85 as of February 1991. This type of gauge may be generally licensed or specifically licensed. It is a thickness gauge typically used to measure plastic film, paper and other similar materials during manufacturing.

The NRC contacted the warehouse manager at Zeta, who did not know the gauge was at the facility. Using the information provided by the individuals and a description of the gauge provided by the NRC, the warehouse manager found the gauge at about 3:00 p.m. on October 27. He stated that he will make sure that the gauge is secured in the warehouse and will not be removed by anyone unless approved by the NRC. He is attempting to determine who provided the gauge to Zeta for auction, and confirmed that it has not been sold by Zeta.

Region I dispatched an inspector to the facility on October 27, 1999, to examine the circumstances surrounding this event and to gather additional information. The NRC contacted Ohmart Corporation which identified the original owner as Southeastern Plastics of New Brunswick, NJ.

This information is current as of 9:00 a.m. on October 28, 1999.

The Region I Public Affairs Office is available to respond to public inquiries.

The State of New Jersey was informed.

Contact: Betsy Ullrich  
(610) 337-5040

Judy Joustra  
(610) 337-5355