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OWENS-ILLINOIS FIBERGLAS INTRA-COMPANY CORRESPONDENCE

To C. C. Stefango - Toledo Date November 19, 1968

From R. F. Shannon - Granville cc J. Margota - Berlin
A. J. Petrun - Toledo
J. B. Mundi - Berlin
F. H. Schwarzle - Berlin

Subject K-3 AMOSITE ASBESTOS

We confirm our telephone conversation of December 13, Grade K-3 amosite asbestos is no longer considered and should not be purchased as the equivalent of Grade W-3.

As you know, for years W-3 and K-3 have been purchased and used as equivalents in Kaylo batch. The vender, North American Asbestos Corporation, has assured us K-3 is the equivalent. In fact, they point out the average fiber length of K-3 is slightly greater than it is for W-3.

The problem is for the past two years we (Granville R&D and Berlin process personnel) have been noting considerable correlation between the type of long fiber amosite used and product strengths and efficiencies. Every time we got into job efficiency troubles at Berlin due to low strength ware, we also noted we were always using K-3 asbestos. Studies are underway both at Granville and at Berlin to confirm these observations.

Several months ago, Dr. Case, Cape Asbestos of England, visited us both at Granville and at Berlin. He agreed with Mr. Cryer of North American Asbestos that K-3 was probably the equivalent of W-3 when shipped from the mine. He also pointed out K-3 asbestos is a considerably more brittle fiber and will suffer substantially greater fiber breakdown during mixing and processing. It was his belief Kaylo batch containing K-3 would have a considerable shorter average fiber length than batch containing W-3 by the time it reached the pan or pipe mold.

To further support our belief K-3 and W-3 are not equivalents, I asked Johns-Manville whether they recommended K-3 as an alternate for W-3 in Thermobestos batch. They use a combination amosite-crysotile batch at Toronto.) Their answer was definitely no. They do not use, do not consider and do not recommend K-3 as a substitute for W-3 in filter press batch.

This problem will resolve itself in the not-to-distant future when we convert over to Grade M asbestos. However, in the meantime, if purchases of the so-called W3/K3 grade must be made, specify Grade W-3 only.

R. F. Shannon

RFS:rl

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