PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT
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ASBESTOS CUTS RP CAR BODY COSTS

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A radically different type of asbestos, produced by Union Carbide, saves costs and outperforms pyrogenic silica when used in RP car body production.

This conclusion was made by Fiberfab, a division of Velocidad, Inc., Santa Clara, California, after using the new type of asbestos as a viscosity control agent in a polyester resin used in the production of RP car bodies. Previously, the firm had used pyrogenic silica to obtain the desired viscosity.

"One of the most important advantages derived is improved economy," according to Fiberfab. "The asbestos costs about half as much as the silica and, because of higher yields, considerably less amounts of asbestos are needed to obtain the desired consistensy in the gel coat batch. The asbestos is also easier to disperse, permits more rapid wetting without fluffing up, makes spraying quicker and easier, and enhances final finish."



Use of body kit transforms chassis into sports model



New type asbestos makes spraying easier, quicker

Fiberfab designs and produces complete body conversion kits for Volkswagen, Corvair, Austin-Healy and other makes. Each kit contains panels, fenders, front and rear end, hood, and other components which are affixed to the basic frame, transforming the vehicle into a sleek-looking sports car.

Production of a part begins with the spraying of the polyester gel coat into a female mold made of wood-and-steel-reinforced RP. After the 0.025-inch-thick coating sets, the base structure of fiber glass and polyester resin is sprayed on to a nominal thickness of 3/16-inch.

The gel coat is formulated by the auto parts manufacturer directly, using a polyester resin, filler and originally, colloidal silica as the viscosity control agent. Fiberfab found that the silica caused a dusting problem and was comparatively expensive.

A new thixotrope, Union Carbide Corporation's Calidria asbestos, Type R-G 244, was tried and important savings were quickly realized. Yields are higher. The standard 800-pound gel coat batch uses only 10 pounds of R-G 244 to obtain the desired consistency. Previously, 14 to 20 pounds of silica were used. The low cost of asbestos resulted in a savings of more than $10 per batch.

Based on its experience with the new resin-grade asbestos, Fiberfab has recommended to the resin manufacturer that it use asbestos as the thixotrope. Fiberfab believes that asbestos will eliminate any stability problem because of its ability to maintain viscosity even under prolonged storage conditions. Evaluation of R-G 244 by their supplier, a large polyester resin manufacturer on the West Coast, is underway.

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