

FILE NAME: Johns-Manville (JMA)

DATE: 1966-1967

DOC#: JMA168

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Documents Relevant to Docker Protests
in UK 1967

Dear Miss Allen,

Preliminary Draft of the Docks Regulations

We have studied the provisions of the Preliminary Draft of the Docks Regulations dated August, 1967, as far as they affect the handling of asbestos cargoes in British ports and would like to put forward for your consideration the following comments:-

1. To avoid confusion with the many other forms in which asbestos might be handled in the Docks, it should be made clear that the Regulations only apply to asbestos in loose, fibrous form and are not intended to cover asbestos products in general. It would, therefore, be helpful if asbestos were defined for the purpose of these Regulations as follows:-

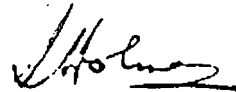
'Asbestos means any naturally occurring fibrous silicate mineral or any dry unbonded admixture containing any such mineral whether crude crushed or opened'.

2. It is not considered that asbestos should be included in the list of Dangerous Goods in Schedule 2. Asbestos is not dangerous, per se, in the sense that accidental mishandling of a bag or container could be catastrophic. The only danger which can ensue is that due to the release of respirable dust containing asbestos and if this happens, momentary exposure is not generally considered hazardous. If asbestos is deleted from Schedule 2, then the provisions of Part VI of the Regulations will not apply.

3. The suggestion in paragraph 2 above is not meant to imply that no reference to asbestos should be made in the Regulations. It is our view that the handling of the Regulations (Health - Miscellaneous Provisions), as the possible hazard is exactly as described in Regulation 84. The specific reference to asbestos could then be made by transferring Regulation 78 from Part VI to Part VII, inserting it immediately after Regulation 84.

We hope that the above comments will be helpful to you and look forward to having your observations. If you wish, we would be pleased to arrange a meeting with you to discuss more fully our suggestions. If you agree, perhaps you would let us have suggested dates.

Yours sincerely,



S. Holmes,
Secretary,

Asbestos Research Council.

HEALTH - MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Protection against danger from dust etc

84. Goods which may give off during handling any dust or fume or other impurity to such an extent as to be likely to be injurious to the health of persons employed shall not be loaded or unloaded unless effective measures have been taken to ensure either -

- (a) that the goods are safe to handle; or
- (b) that persons employed are protected from the danger involved in handling the goods.

Restricted spaces

85. No person unless he is wearing a suitable approved breathing apparatus shall enter or remain in any hold or any other restricted space (whether or not in a ship) in which the amount of oxygen in the area is liable to have been substantially reduced or in which dangerous fumes are liable to be present to such an extent that there is a risk of persons being overcome thereby.

Internal combustion engines

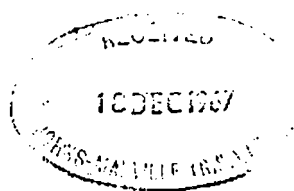
86. No internal combustion engine shall be operated unless by ventilation or otherwise the accumulation of fumes likely to be injurious or offensive to persons employed is prevented.

Protective clothing and equipment

87. (1) Every employer of persons employed shall provide and maintain for the use of those persons in the circumstances mentioned in Regulations 75(2), 76(2), and 85, proper equipment, suitable protective clothing and suitable approved breathing apparatus, as required in the case of each of those provisions

(2) Persons employed shall be given adequate instruction in the use of any breathing apparatus so provided.

(3) It shall be the duty of persons employed to use any equipment, protective clothing and breathing apparatus provided when employed in the circumstances mentioned in Regulations 75(2), 76(2) and 85 and as required in the case of each of those provisions.



11007B

ASBESTOS FIBRE IMPORTERS COMMITTEE
NEWBY HOUSE · 309 CHASE ROAD · LONDON N.14 · TEL: FOX LANE 1318

16 October, 1967

To Members of the Asbestos Fibres Importers Committee

Dear Sir,

I am enclosing copy of the Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 5th October, which I trust you will find in order.

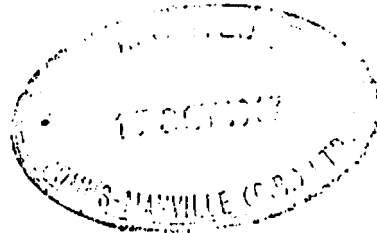
Also enclosed is a copy of Schedule 2 of the Draft Docks Regulations.

In accordance with the agreement to hold a lunch early in December, I have arranged this for Tuesday 5th December at the Postyn Hotel, Portman Street, London, W.1. and have invited Mr Colin Mann and Mr Anthony Masterson Smith of Hill and Knowlton to join us; also Mr Mann has been requested to give us a talk after lunch on the aims and problems of the Asbestos Information Committee.

Union Carbide U.K. Limited have agreed to join our Committee, I am pleased to advise, and I am therefore enclosing an additional sheet with their particulars to attach to your List of Members of the A.F.I.C.

Yours sincerely,

M.J. Brazier
M.J. Brazier
Secretary



ASBESTOS FIBRE IMPORTERS COMMITTEE

SECOND MEETING HELD AT 2.30 P.M.
ON THURSDAY 5th OCTOBER, 1967 AT
114 PARK STREET, LONDON, W.1.

11007C

BD
BD

MINUTES

PRESENT: A.A. Brazier & Co (Asbestos) Ltd - Mr M.J. Brazier (in the Chair)
Brandhurst Co.Ltd - Mr M.F. Taylor
Cape Asbestos Fibres Ltd - Mr A. Scott
Central Asbestos Co.Ltd - Mr W. Scott
The Flintkote Co.Ltd - Mr J.D. Grieve
Johns-Manville (Great Britain) Ltd - Mr K. Wood
Textile Improvements Ltd - Mr A.G. Pritchard
Turners Asbestos Fibres Ltd - Mr W. Jones
- Mr E. Neale
- Mr M.F. Howe

CHAIRMAN - Mr R.T. Lewis being absent, Mr M.J. Brazier was elected to act as Chairman.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - These were received from Mr R. Lewis, Cyprus Asbestos Ltd., Mr D. French, The Marley Floor Tile Co.Ltd., and Mr A. Bellair, Cookson Produce & Chemical Trading Co.Ltd.

MINUTES - The Minutes of the last meeting had been circulated and it was agreed they should be signed as a record of that meeting.

MATTERS ARISING - Mr M.F. Howe had written referring to item 8(b) mentioning the fact that he had withdrawn the suggestion before any discussion started.

5. **DOCK SITUATION** - There were no changes in the position at any port although Mr Howe commented that he had learned about a shipment of approximately 100 tons unpalletised asbestos from Africa that had been handled in Liverpool. This consignment had not been shipped by a member company of the A.F.I.C. and it was believed that it had been shipped to Liverpool in ignorance of the position. The interesting fact being that the dockers had handled it. Mr Pritchard also mentioned that Newcastle had agreed to accept a non-pressure packed consignment which had been shipped in error.

6. **DRAFT DOCK REGULATIONS** - Considerable discussion took place over the fact that the Ministry of Labour had placed asbestos under the category of "Dangerous Goods". No member knew of any decision that could justify this action. Mr Howe was to contact Dr Holmes of the Asbestosis Research Council for his comments.

After Schedule 2 had been read, which gave the Categories of "Dangerous Goods" it was unanimously agreed that there was no apparent reason why asbestos should be placed in this category. The Secretary was instructed to write to the Ministry of Labour along these lines suggesting that an additional Part should be included, headed "Other goods to be given special consideration."

The implications of Parts 72, 73 and 76 relating to 78 (Asbestos) were discussed and there were many comments as to the suitability of these Parts relating to Asbestos. After some discussion Part 78 was reworded, bearing in mind the suggestion that this Part would then appear under the heading "Goods to be given special consideration", as follows:

Asbestos

1. No asbestos shall be loaded, unloaded or handled unless it is securely in impermeable bags or other impermeable packages. When practicable mechanical means are to be used for the loading, unloading or handling so as to reduce the possibility of dust.

2. Measures shall be taken to ensure that bags or packages of asbestos are loaded, unloaded and handled in such a way that they are not damaged.

3. Where asbestos dust is given off in the course of loading, unloading or handling asbestos, all practicable means shall be provided and used to prevent those employed from inhaling asbestos dust.

4. The method of cleaning any hold which has contained asbestos shall be such that it does not raise dust.

7. DRAFT CODE OF PRACTICE - A meeting had been held with Mr R.H. Butler, P.L.A., Mr D.R. Newbery, Canadian Pacific and Mr J.W. Simpson, Ellerman and Bucknall Steamship Co.Ltd., to discuss the draft Code of Practice for the handling of Asbestos, which had been prepared by Mr A. Cross, Cape Asbestos Fibres Ltd, and Mr M.J. Brazier. Discussion took place and amendments suggested so that the Code of Practice should cover only handling in the ports. It was felt that to cover the handling on lorries etc. would raise many additional problems.

It was agreed that a copy of the amended draft should be sent to the Asbestosis Research Council for their comments and subsequently to the members of the Asbestos Fibre Importers Committee.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS - It was agreed that a lunch be arranged for members, prior to the meeting to be held in the early part of December and that Mr C. Mann and Mr A. Masterson Smith should be invited. It was suggested that Mr C. Mann should be asked to give the A.F.I.C. members a talk on the aims and problems of the Asbestos Information Committee.

The Secretary distributed copies of a list of articles on asbestos and health and asked members to advise him of other articles they may know of so that a complete list could be maintained.

SCHEDULE 2

Categories of dangerous goods

1. Explosives.
2. Gases: compressed, liquefied or dissolved under pressure.
3. Flammable liquids.
4. Flammable solids.
5. Flammable solids or substances liable to spontaneous combustion.
6. Flammable solids or substances which in contact with water emit flammable gases.
7. Oxidising substances.
8. Organic peroxides.
9. Poisonous (toxic) substances.
10. Infectious substances (other than those specified in paragraph 11).
11. Radio-active substances.
12. Corrosives.
13. Asbestos.
14. Goods liable to be infected with anthrax -
 - Cashmere, raw or dehaired,
 - goat hair,
 - mohair,
 - horsehair,
 - alpaca,
 - camel hair,
 - wool exported from Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, India, Pakistan, Egypt, the People's Republic of China, the Mongolian People's Republic, or any Persian Gulf port.
 - Persian locks, that is to say, cuttings and fallings separate from the fleece from Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, or exported from any Persian Gulf port,
 - dry and dry-salted raw hides or skins imported from Africa, (including Madagascar), Asia (including Japan and the Malay Archipelago), or South America,

- 3 -

Union Carbide U.K. Limited
P.O. Box 2LR
Grafton Street
London, W.1.

Representing
Coalinga
King City
California

Usual Representative

Mr I.C. Sayer

629 8100

ASBESTOS FIBRE IMPORTERS COMMITTEE

NEWBY HOUSE · 309 CHASE ROAD · LONDON N14 · TEL: FOX LANE 1318

THIRD MEETING HELD AT 2.30 p.m.
ON TUESDAY 5th DECEMBER, 1967 AT
THE MOSTYN HOTEL, PORTMAN STREET, LONDON, W.1.

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Cyprus Asbestos Ltd	- Mr R.T. Lewis (in the Chair)
A.A. Brazier & Co (Asbestos) Ltd	- Mr M.J. Brazier
Brandhurst Co. Ltd	- Mr M.F. Taylor
Cape Asbestos Fibres Ltd	- Mr A. Scott
Central Asbestos Co. Ltd	- Mr K. Parsons
The Flintkote Co. Ltd	- Mr D.C. Bennet
Johns Manville (G.B.) Ltd	- Mr J.D. Grieve
The Marley Floor Tile Co. Ltd	- Mr A.G. Pritchard
Turners Asbestos Fibres Ltd	- Mr W.R. Jones
	- Mr D.G. French
	- Mr M.F. Howe

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: These were received from Mr W. Scott, (Cape Asbestos Fibres Ltd), Mr A. Bellair, (Cookson Produce & Chemical Co. (Trading) Ltd.) Mr E. Neale, (Textile Improvements Ltd.), and Mr I.C. Sayer, (Union Carbide U.K. Ltd).

2. MINUTES: The Minutes of the last meeting had been circulated and it was agreed they should be signed as a record of that meeting.

3. WEST INDIA DOCKS: The Secretary reported a letter had been received from Canadian Pacific quoting Mr Dudley Perkins of the P.L.A. who said that pallets were acceptable in the West India Docks and the dockers were content to handle them. It had been pointed out to Canadian Pacific that other docks still would not accept pallets and it was understood that Canadian Pacific are raising the matter again with Mr Perkins.

4. THE OCEAN SHIP OWNERS LAY COMMITTEE: Discussions had taken place with Mr W. Munday - Convenor of the Ocean Ship Owners Lay Committee - and he again reiterated that the position was unaltered. Asbestos would only be handled in steel drums, fibre board drums, or metal containers and the application by the Asbestos Fibre Importers Committee to import a number of trial pallets still had not been considered by his Committee due to pressure of work resulting from the docks strike and decasualisation. He was unable to advise when our letter would be discussed.

5. POSITION AT BRITISH PORTS: There had been little change in the position at British Ports since the last meeting. The Head Line from Canada to Glasgow were prepared to carry only 50 tons per vessel. Belfast had been used recently and handled asbestos normally.

6. DRAFT CODE OF PRACTICE: The Secretary reported that a meeting of the Asbestosis Research Council was being held today (5th December, 1967) and consideration would be given to the draft of the Recommended Code of Practice for Handling Consignments of Asbestos Fibre in British Ports.

7. PROPOSED NEW DOCK REGULATIONS: The Secretary reported on a meeting with Mr Selby Boothroyd of the Board of Trade who had advised that representation had been made by the Board of Trade to the Ministry of Labour to remove Asbestos from the Schedule of Dangerous Goods. The Secretary also reported on correspondence with Turners Asbestos Fibres Ltd., which had resulted in an approach being made to the Asbestosis Research Council to take up with the Ministry of Labour, the problem of Asbestos

Reporting on a telephone conversation with Mr A.F. Hatfull, of the Ministry of Labour, the Secretary mentioned that whilst Mr Hatfull is aware of the problems likely to be raised by placing asbestos under the category of Dangerous Goods, he was not sure that moving any mention of Asbestos to Part VII was the answer.

It was not expected that meetings on the Docks Regulations would commence until February and Mr Hatfull intimated that there would be meetings on our particular problem at that time.

The Secretary reported that he had advised the Cyprus, Canadian Russian and South African Government Departments in London of the proposed new Docks Regulations and the placing of Asbestos under the category of Dangerous Goods; they had been requested to take up this matter with the Ministry of Labour on behalf of their respective Governments.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

(a) The Secretary was asked to write to Mr Colin Mann of Hill and Knowlton International (U.K.) Representatives - Public Relations Consultants for the Asbestos Information Committee to thank him for attending the luncheon held prior to the meeting and for his interesting talk on the formation, running and future of this Committee; also for answering a number of questions from the Members. It was agreed that a small gift should be made to him as a token of thanks.

(b) Mr C. Mann had mentioned the Asbestos Supplement which appeared in "The Times" November 28th, 1967. It was agreed that the Secretary should send copies to the various Union officials for their interest.

(c) It was unanimously agreed that a suitable Christmas gift should be made to Mrs Bell, Secretary to Mr Brazier as a small token of the Committee's appreciation for her help during the year.

(d) The Secretary was asked to record a vote of thanks from the Committee for organising the lunch which had preceded the meeting.

Cyprus Asbestos Ltd
The Flintkote Co. Ltd
Johns Manville Co. Ltd
Marley Floor Tile Co. Ltd
Textile Improvements Ltd
Turners Asbestos Fibres Ltd

109804
- Mr R.T. Lewis
- Mr A.G. Pritchard
- Mr F.G. Salmon
- Mr D.G. French
- Mr Neale
- Mr M.F. Howe

ITEM 1 - The meeting was opened by Mr R. Riley of the Cape Asbestos Co. Ltd., who welcomed the Members to the meeting.

ITEM 2 - It was proposed that Mr R.T. Lewis be appointed Chairman of the meeting and Mr M.J. Brazier to act as Secretary. Both resolutions were passed.

ITEM 3 - The proposed Agenda sent to Members was agreed as the basis for discussion at the meeting.

ITEM 4 - The main item on the Agenda was the recurrence of unloading difficulties at some London Docks, particularly by P.L.A. labour.

Mr Lewis gave a resume of the current position which meant that the dockers concerned were refusing to handle Asbestos, even though packed in impervious bags. Two shipments from Cyprus - on the "BLACK PRINCE" and the "FLAMINIAN" were packed in a polythene inner bag with a jute outer bag, and one shipment from South Africa (Central) on the "CITY OF DURBAN" was packed in a paper lined jute bag.

Mr Lewis reported that on Tuesday 29th November, the P.L.A. Dockers at the West India Docks and their Union Representatives, had decided not to handle any consignments of Asbestos. A meeting was held the same afternoon on the "BLACK PRINCE" which Mr Lewis attended with representatives from the Shipping Company and their Agents, the Factory Inspectorate, the Dock Manager and three low level Union Stewards. The Factory Inspector pointed out that the Asbestos was in impervious bags as had been recommended by the Ministry of Labour; he pointed out that a bag of Asbestos which had been brought on deck was in good condition and that there was virtually no danger from Asbestos dust with these packs and as an additional safeguard marks could be worn. Despite these points being brought to their attention, the dockers still refused to handle the consignment and also suggested that dirty money should be paid to the dockers handling cargo underneath the Asbestos in case there was any contamination by Asbestos dust. They maintained it was impossible to work at a piece work rate when masks were worn. The dockers wanted the Asbestos loaded on pallets and wrapped in a protective covering before they would handle it, on future shipments.

A meeting was to be arranged between the Authority's Medical Officer, Dr Lawrence-Smith and the Medical Officer of the Trade Union General, Dr Robert Murray.

Mr Wood (Central Asbestos Co. Ltd) commented on the shipment on the "CITY OF DURBAN" which had now sailed from London with the Asbestos still on board, which they were hoping to off-load at an East Coast Port.

Mr. Hood also commented on difficulties they had experienced in exporting processed fibre packed in a lined bag. Some gangs would accept bags, others would only accept pallet loads etc. A topsy turvy situation.

In view of the delicate situation, it was felt that great care should be taken in any discussions with the Unions and it was agreed that a Sub-Committee of three should endeavour to appraise the situation, if possible get the views of the Medical Officer of the Trade Union Congress (Mr. Robert Murray) and report back at a later meeting. After some discussion it was agreed that the Sub-Committee should consist of The Chairman (Mr. R.T. Lewis) the Secretary (Mr. L.J. Brazier) and Mr. W. Scott. The seriousness of the position with regard to major industries in this country was to be emphasized where possible. The suggestion was also made that it should be pointed out to the dockers and the Unions, the use of hooks with subsequent damage to bags was a main cause of any Asbestos dust in the holds of ships.

It was also felt that the Ministry of Labour should hold a meeting with the Unions on our behalf, to discuss the matter further if no satisfactory conclusion is reached during the meeting called by the I.L.A.

ITEM 2 - It was thought that the question of suitable packaging for Asbestos had been resolved by the Ministry of Labour's recommendation that Asbestos should only be imported in impervious bags. It now transpires that even this impervious pack is not acceptable to some of the London dockers. It was felt that if a number of different packs or pallet loads etc. were used, the dockers might pick on one type as being acceptable, which might not be acceptable to all Producers from a particular area. It was realised that there were different problems in different countries and to avoid confusion, it was suggested that Members should ask their Principals to liaise with other Producers in their area and decide upon a joint policy.

It was also suggested that the representatives of the Asbestos Producers and Importers should freely exchange details of the results of trial shipments. It was realised that each Member would have to obtain approval from his Principals and as the meeting generally was in favour of the suggestion, it was left to each Member to approach his own Principals and advise the Secretary of their decisions as early as possible in January.

Whilst it was agreed generally that palletisation would probably be the final answer, this was still some way off. Cost of pallets, strapping, wrapping, handling by stevedores and dockers etc. were all points to be discussed at some length. It is suggested that further discussions on this point would take place at some future meeting. Both Central and Cape notified they were having trial shipments of Asbestos on pallets and whilst possible difficulties at the docks, it was felt that these should be taken forward. Careful negotiations with the Unions and the dockers were suggested regarding pallets, particularly if the trial shipments led to the conclusion that all future shipments should come forward on pallets completely.

in 1957 when the more formal drafting of the new regulations took place. It was understood that Mrs Joyce Butler (Labour M.P. for Wood Green, London) was asking the Minister of Labour a question about the health hazard of asbestos in factories, in the House of Commons on December 12th during question time. It is expected that Mrs Butler will also raise the question of the dockers and Asbeston. She will be given a general answer that the factory regulations are to be extended to cover all places where Asbestos is used and that the dockers will be covered by the new dock regulations which are also being revised at the same time. Mr Brazier mentioned that he had obtained tickets for the Strangers Gallery on December 12th.

ITEM 7 - Considerable discussion took place over the recent newspaper articles and letters in the "Sunday Times" and whilst it was felt that some of the misleading information could be corrected, possibly by a letter to the "Sunday Times", the general opinion was that this might possibly aggravate the situation which is already very delicate, and could lead to arguments in medical fields on which we could not comment.

ITEM 8 - A general discussion took place on minor points arising from the discussions outlined above before the meeting was closed by the Chairman with a vote of thanks to the Cape Asbestos Co.Ltd., for their hospitality.

109800

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10/10/00 BY 60322 UCBAW/STP/STP

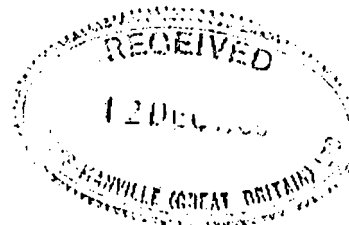
A.A. Brazier & Co. (Asbestos) Ltd.

100, CHEST ROAD LONDON N 11

ASCENTOS CORPORATION
LIMITED
100, CHEST ROAD, LONDON, CANADA

9 December, 1966

To Representative of the Asbestos
Producers and Importers in the U.S.



Dear Sir,

enclosed are the Minutes of the meeting of the
Asbestos Producers and Importers held on Friday 2nd
December, 1966, together with copy of a letter from the
Port of London Authority which I would ask you to treat
as confidential.

It is with regret that I have to report the
proposed meeting of Dr Lawrence-Smith of the P.L.A.
and Dr Robert Murray, Medical Officer of the Trade
Union Congress, did not take place due to the indisposition
of Dr Murray. I am informed that Dr Murray will be
unable to attend another meeting until after Christmas.

Comments have been received that the
Lightermans Union is also very concerned over the
dangers to their Members and have asked for a meeting
with the Importers of Asbestos.

The "CITY OF CHICAGO" from South Africa is
due in London over the week-end with asbestos on board.
If the Dockers do not work this ship, it is intended
to ask the Ministry of Labour to arrange a meeting of
the interested parties in an endeavour to settle the
existing situation and clarify the future position.

Yours very truly,

M.J. Brazier

Cyprus Asbestos Limited
The Flintkote Co. Ltd
Textile Improvements Ltd
Turners Asbestos Fibres Ltd

157712
- Mr J.D. Grieve
- Mr R.T. Lewis
- Mr A.P. Tuck
- Mr E. Neale
- Mr M.F. Howe
- Mr J.M. Gommell

The Chairman opened the meeting by thanking Cape Asbestos Company Ltd, for again making facilities available for the meeting.

2. The Sub-Committee gave further comments on their various meetings, mainly with the National Joint Council (already circulated), London Ocean Trades Employers Association and the National Amalgamated Stevedores and Dockers Union. After the first meeting with the N.A.S.D. Union officials, they had been invited to visit Cape's Factory at Barking and Tunnel's Asbestos Cement Factory at Purfleet, and Mr Scott passed round confidential comments by him, noted during these visits. The Transport and General Workers Union had been advised of the invitations extended to the N.A.S.D. Officials and similar invitations for them to visit these factories will be extended to them if the desire. Mr Howe mentioned the possibility of comparisons being made between the cleanliness of the factories compared with the ships' holds which may cause difficulties.

3. The positions at U.K. Ports were reported as follows:

SOUTHAMPTON: Will still only accept palletised Asbestos.

LONDON: Canadian Pacific will not accept asbestos except on covered pallets after the 15th July and the Unions instructions are that no asbestos will be handled after the 31st July unless "packed in containers impervious to the escape of dust."

TILBURY: It is believed that only palletised cargo will now be accepted.

FELIXSTOWE AND LOWESTOFT: No further news except that a shipment from Cyprus was due to arrive shortly.

BIRMINGHAM: It was understood from Turners that they will handle asbestos but want an additional 44/6d per ton to handle it.

HULL: Mr Gommell of Turners had visited this port and it appeared as if they may continue to handle asbestos, but discussions were continuing.

NEWCASTLE: The Cairn-Thomson Line will only accept pressure packed material.

LEITH AND GRANGEMOUTH: The Cairn-Thomson Line are not expected to accept Asbestos for these ports and it is believed the Dockers at these ports will not handle asbestos at all.

GLASGOW: Still handling asbestos normally as far as is known.

... were not prepared to accept the material.

AVONMOUTH: It appeared that one of the South African Lines said they would only take asbestos into Avonmouth, providing it was for a factory adjacent to the port, although Turners advised that shipments from Africa were being accepted without reservation.

Mr Brazier had visited the port of Bristol and the Port of Bristol Authority said they anticipated no trouble over handling bags of asbestos and the Bristol City Line confirmed they are prepared to accept both pressure and non pressure packed asbestos at present. Concern was expressed by Mr Brazier about the dust present in the hold of the "BRISTOL CITY" where group 7 fibre had been loaded. Other holds containing no group 7 material were completely clean.

Generally speaking it seems as if asbestos will still be imported although sometimes it may be difficult to obtain shipping space to a particular port.

It was unfortunate that a more precise definition could not be obtained so "packed in containers impervious to the escape of dust" but it was felt that to press for a specific interpretation of this could lead to further complications, particularly in London.

With regard to pallets, it was felt that the cardboard covered pack may still not be completely satisfactory, to stand up to the multiple handling involved and the suggestion was again mooted that Group 7 fibre at least, should be loaded on to pallets in an endeavour to reduce the amount of dust released on ships carrying all grades of asbestos. In other words, it may pay the industry to insist upon pallets for group 7 material in order that the importation of other grades will not be jeopardized.

4. Mr Brazier advised that the pamphlets had been distributed to the various docks etc., and there had been numerous requests for further supplies. Mr O'Leary of the N.J.C. and T.G.W.U. had also requested a further 700 copies which seemed to indicate that they had been of value.

Mr Brazier also advised that he had been invited to attend the next meeting of the Asbestos Information Committee to report on the distribution and effectiveness of the pamphlet.

It was naturally hoped that no further adverse publicity would arise which would again blow up the docks problem.

5. The revisions to the draft Constitution of the Committee were discussed and agreement was reached as to the wording; copies of which should be circulated to all members as soon as possible.

10979B

TELEPHONE:
FOX Lane 1113

DIRECTOR: W. S. BRAZIER M. J. BRAZIER

TELEGRAMS:
SOTSEBSA LONDON N14

A. A. Brazier & Co. (Asbestos) Ltd.

NEWBY HOUSE

309 CHASE ROAD

LONDON N.14

ASBESTOS
SOLE REPRESENTATIVES IN
GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND FOR
ASBESTOS CORPORATION
LIMITED
THETFORD MINES, QUE., CANADA.

11 May, 1967

To the Representatives of the Asbestos
Producers and Importers

Dear Sir,

As you are aware, I have just returned from a visit to Thetford, where I attended a meeting of the Quebec Asbestos Mining Association Sub-Committee, dealing with the problems of packaging etc., relating to shipments of Asbestos to the U.K. It was agreed that I should circulate a Report of this meeting and I am attaching a list of those present.

After giving a resume of our troubles from the initial publicity to the latest port to port difficulties, considerable discussion took place, from which the following points emerged:

1. Considerable concern was expressed over our problems with the dockers, although they found the health risk angle difficult to understand. They now realise that our main concern is to educate and re-assure the dockers over any possible health risk.
2. It was emphasised that the Q.A.M.A. would much prefer to see the dockers persuaded to accept laminated bags.
3. No non-palletised shipments in plain paper bags would be made in future.
4. The Q.A.M.A. are not happy about the introduction of covered palletised loads, due to the considerable inconvenience in preparing this type of pack and the necessary considerable cost that must be passed on to the customer. This has been agreed at a minimum of \$10.00 per ton when laminated bags are used.
5. Trial shipments on pallets have been made by Carey and National but results of the condition on arrival are still awaited.
6. Experimental shipments have been carried out by Lake and Johns Manville in the 20' x 8' x 8' metal containers (carrying about 20 tons). Results of these trials are not yet to hand. To most people, this method seems to be the obvious solution, viewed on a long term basis. The additional cost at present is estimated at \$3.75 per ton on the freight, assuming paper bags are used. One difficulty at the moment is that there are not enough containers available and it is estimated that it would be at least two years before sufficient numbers are available to handle the Asbestos traffic.

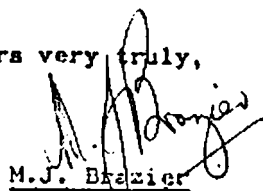
7. No further shipments on pallets will be leaving the mines for the next week or so, in the hope that agreement can be reached with the dockers to handle jute laminated bags.
8. The Q.A.M.A. members are working together in Committee to ensure that similar methods of packaging and unitising are used by all producers, thus avoiding multiplicity and confusion. This would also avoid the possibility of the dockers settling for one type of pack to the exclusion of all others.

If the worst happens and the Q.A.M.A. have to ship on covered pallets, these will probably be as per the enclosed specifications.

An approach has been made to Dr Cartier of the Thetford Clinic, asking him to prepare a statement on the numbers employed in the Asbestos mining industry and the incidences of Asbestosis, Lung Cancer and Mesothelioma etc. He is preparing a statement, but it is not yet known how detailed this will be and how far he will be prepared to commit himself. Any report will be circulated to you as soon as it is received.

I feel that this visit to Canada will be of considerable benefit to myself and our Committee in dealing with the Unions etc. in future, as well as to the Q.A.M.A. who, I am sure, are now more aware of our peculiar problems.

Yours very truly,


M.J. Brazier

10998F

ASBESTOS FIBRE IMPORTERS COMMITTEE

NEWBY HOUSE · 309 CHASE ROAD · LONDON N.14 · TEL.: FOX LANE 1318

FIRST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

HELD AT 2.30 p.m. on TUESDAY

5th SEPTEMBER, 1967 AT 114

PARK STREET, LONDON, W.1.

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Brandhurst Co.Ltd	- Mr T.A.W. Kirkwood
A.A. Brazier & Co (Asbestos) Ltd	- Mr M.J. Brazier
Cape Asbestos Fibres Ltd	- Mr A. Scott
	- Mr W. Scott
Central Asbestos Co.Ltd	- Mr J.D. Grieve
Cyprus Asbestos Limited	- Mr R.T. Lewis
Johns Manville(Great Britain) Ltd	Mr W. Jones
The Marley Tile Co.Ltd	- Mr D. French
Textile Improvements Ltd	- Mr E. Neale
Turners Asbestos Fibres Ltd	- Mr M.P. Howe
Union Carbide Ltd	- Mr I.C. Sayers

1. The meeting was opened by the Chairman who welcomed members to the First Annual General Meeting.
2. Apologies for absence had been received from Mr A.P. Tuck and Mr A.G. Pritchard of The Flintkote Co.Ltd., and Mr K. Wood of Central Asbestos Co.Ltd.
3. The Secretary's expenses for the period to 30th June were placed before the meeting. It was proposed by Mr Lewis from the Chair that each member be asked to contribute the sum of £5 towards the expenses for the period under review. It was also proposed that each member be asked to contribute a further £10 to be set against expenses for the ensuing year. Both proposals were carried unanimously.
4. Election of Chairman. The Secretary reported that he had received nominations only for Mr Lewis. Mr Lewis indicated that he was prepared to continue and as there were no further nominations, he was duly elected.
5. Election of Secretary. Nominations had been received for Mr Brazier and as he agreed to continue in office he was unanimously elected.
6. Election of one Member to the Executive Committee. Two nominations had been received - Mr W. Scott and Mr K. Wood. Mr Grieve mentioned that Mr Wood was in favour of the Executive Committee continuing as heretofore and he did not think Mr Wood would wish to stand. Mr W. Scott was therefore unanimously elected.
7. There was no further business and the meeting closed at 3.00 p.m.

110090

THE ASBESTOSIS RESEARCH COUNCIL

CONFIDENTIAL

RECOMMENDED

CODE OF PRACTICE

for handling

consignments of asbestos

fibre in British Ports

RECOMMENDED CODE OF PRACTICE

This Code of Practice covers the handling in the docks of all types of asbestos fibre which has not been incorporated in a manufactured product

1.

Packaging

- 1.1 Asbestos fibre of all types should be securely packed in impermeable bags.
- 1.2 If deliveries are made up into unitized loads, these should be securely fastened by banding.
- 1.3 For additional protection, unitized loads of crocidolite asbestos should be further enclosed in a cover of impermeable material and then secured by banding as above.
- 1.4 If standard international metal containers are used, the shipper should ensure that all projections inside the container are adequately protected to avoid damage to impermeable bags in transit.

2.

Handling

- 2.1 On no account should hooks or other equipment be used which is likely to damage and therefore unseal the impermeable wrapping of asbestos fibre consignments.
- 2.2 Unitised loads should be lifted intact to and from ship's holds, and off and on land transport by fork lift trucks or other suitable handling equipment.
- 2.3 Suitable protective clothing should be worn and arrangements made for its cleaning and storage after use. (See 5.2 and 5.3)
- 2.4 Respirators of the approved type should be worn by those engaged in the collection and rebagging of any loose material caused by damage in handling. (See 5.1)

3.

Spillage

In the event of accidental damage to the packaging resulting in the spillage of asbestos fibre, the following additional precautions should be taken:

1. Damaged bags should be overslipped with suitable impermeable bags as soon as possible, a supply of which should be available where asbestos consignments are being handled. The bags should be securely tied, clearly identified and forwarded with the consignment.

THE ASBESTOSIS RESEARCH COUNCIL.

Present factory regulations recognise asbestosis as an industrial disease which could arise from the inhalation of asbestos dust. No regulations have yet been introduced relating to the handling of asbestos in transit, for example at the docks. While there is no record of any disease associated with asbestos occurring among dockers or others concerned with handling shipments of asbestos, it is known that apprehension exists among those who are engaged from time to time in such work.

In order to reassure and to eliminate any risk, however slight, for the health of those concerned, the Asbestosis Research Council has drawn up a code of practice for the packaging and handling of asbestos shipments in the which it recommends to suppliers, shippers and port authorities.

Agreed.

- 3.2 Any remaining spilt material should be finally cleared either by vacuum equipment or, after thoroughly wetting, by sweeping.

4.

Conditions of Transport

It has been suggested that transport facilities which have been regularly used for shipment of asbestos fibre may be contaminated by spillage. In such cases it is recommended that the accommodation should be thoroughly cleaned by vacuum equipment, or manually, after thoroughly wetting by personnel equipped with respirators and protective clothing as described in 2.3 and 2.4 and the collected material disposed of in impermeable bags.

5.

Care and Use of Respirators and clothing

- 5.1 The approved respirators should be carefully maintained and adequate servicing arrangements should be made to ensure that this is done and that employees are not without respirators during maintenance (See Note B).
- 5.2 Overalls made from Nylon or other synthetic material and free from open pockets etc., are recommended as most suitable.
- 5.3 Protective clothing should be cleaned after use by vacuum cleaner or by washing - overalls should not be shaken, brushed or dusted by a direct air-blast. Clothing which has been used while handling loose asbestos fibre should be placed in suitably marked containers prior to despatch to laundry.

6.

Medical Supervision

(To be drafted by the Asbestosis Research Council)

Notes

- A Notes on the care and maintenance of respirators are being prepared and will be available from the Council separately.
- B Notes on the medical examination of workers in the asbestos industry are available from the Council.

September 1967

The Asbestosis Research Council