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Hampton
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1. M. Smith
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(for INFO purposes)

October 12, 1967

10/12/67

Mr. A. E. Anderson
Westinghouse Electric Corporation
Hampton, South Carolina

Dear Sir:

Relative to your telegram on approval of vessel and/or 1/32 Malamine by the Coast Guard, I have seen no revision to the Coast Guard Specification which modifies smoke and flame spread requirements.

Further, I would question that the Coast Guard is considering any modification. We are presenting the International Organization to include smoke and flame spread requirements for all vessels irrespective of point of registry and all are in general agreement that there should be restrictions but the method of test is the problem. The International specifications will probably not only involve a smoke and flame spread requirement but also a restriction on the toxicity of the smoke developed.

I am enclosing a letter of the agents from the comments of the U.S. Delegation to the International Organization which covers the subject of flame spread. This should clearly point out the United States position.

What you may be referring to is the fact that in state rooms, crew's quarters and officers' accommodations there is no restriction on the surfacing of bulkheads. The position is taken that since the room contains considerable other combustible material, i.e., furniture, clothing, bedding, etc., there is no real need for a flame spread restriction on wall surfaces. However, the specifications require each room to be completely filled off from the other from a fire standpoint.

The Coast Guard smoke and flame spread restrictions apply only to public areas, passageways and stairwells.

However, for instance, is only required to use asbestos sheets in these critical areas and not required to use it in the state rooms. They elect to use it throughout the ship because they do not want the brands of material on board which might get mixed up and the wrong material applied in the wrong place.

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PLAINTIFF'S
EXHIBIT
W4-221

A. E. Anderson

October 10, 1967

While on the subject, this is the reason for my harangue on the price of asbestos Micarta with you and indirectly with Milt Smith. Asbestos Micarta will continue to be used on non restricted areas provided it does not get out of hand, price-wise.

I hope this clarifies the circumstances for you.

Very truly yours,

UNITED STATES STEEL CORPORATION

A. E. Anderson

KED/pmc

Encl.

cc: E. O'Connor/Westinghouse, E.E.

The summary of this test work is attached as Annex V.

(b) Low Flame Spread - Judging from the last two sessions of the Working Group it does not appear that it will be possible to reach agreement on a definite testing procedure. Additionally, discussions on passenger ship fire safety and study of the list of materials put forward for evaluation have led to the conclusion that evaluating a group of materials by various national test methods will not assist in providing the definition of "low flame spread" which is required immediately. For these reasons, the United States wishes to again suggest that for the present the Working Group should simply attempt to establish what properties should be measured by a national test method, and what relative performance the test sample should be agreed to be the safest category of national ratings. This is presently the U.S. practice.

Specifically, the following are suggested as an immediate solution to the problem:

1. The Working Group should report to the Subcommittee on Fire Protection its inability to agree on a specific test for measuring "low flame spread" because of the multitude of national test methods and the fundamental differences of approach inherent in these methods.
2. The Working Group should recommend that member governments continue to exchange information on the subject through the IMO Secretariat.
3. The Working Group should recommend that the IMO Working Group 4 be requested, through the IMO Secretariat, to periodically appraise the Subcommittee on Fire Protection of developments in the field.
4. The Working Group should recommend that until such time as further technical studies have been made, the following general guidelines should be applied:

(a) In evaluating the flame spread of a material, an Administration may employ the national test method commonly used for building materials, providing the test specimen shall be exposed to conditions of flame or radiant heat conducive to fire spread under actual fire conditions.

(b) Only materials at least qualifying under the most restrictive national classification shall be accepted as exhibiting low flame spread characteristics.

(c) In locations where "low flame spread" materials are required, it is generally desirable that the amount of smoke and toxic gas produced by the materials be restricted. Administrations are encouraged to establish or adopt test procedures to measure such properties.

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