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STEPHEN L. BERGER, P.E.
PATENT AGENT
4418 Pleasant Valley Court
Oakland, California 94611
510 658-2256

Feb. 2005

Joshua Haffner
Law Offices of Bernie Bernheim
4725 Rubio Avenue
Encino, California 91436

PATENT SEARCH ON HAIR DRYERS

Dear Mr. Haffner:

Enclosed please find the results of my patent search on asbestos in hair dryers. Unfortunately, there was nothing of interest assigned to the corporations you had mentioned. It seems that the corporations, like Conair, are more interested in the design aspect of hair dryers, rather than the inventing part. I was able to locate some patents that disclosed the use of asbestos and mica, as summarized below.

Patents disclosing the use of asbestos:

1,764,462	1930	Mosier	Page 1, lines 49-61 Asbestos or similar material
2,425,056	1947	Younger	Col. 3, lines 10-26 Asbestos not required
3,724,092	1973	Scovill Manufacturing Company	Col. 3, lines 7-13 Asbestos mounting board
3,955,095	1976	S E B S.A.	Col. 2, line 66-col. 3, line 4
4,201,703	1980	Ethyl Corporation	Col. 5, lines 4-11 Col. 6, lines 58-63 Asbestos can be used a filler in plastic moldings useful as hair dryer parts

Patents disclosing the use of mica:

1,508,735	1924	Fitzgerald Manufacturing Company	Page 2, lines 89-99 Mica insulating cross bars

1,720,302	1929	Eugene, Ltd.	Page 2, lines 70-77 Page 2, lines 109-114 Mica insulating material
2,962,576	1960	Handy Hannah Products Corporation	Col. 2, lines 42-54 Mica sheets

I have also enclosed a short history of electric hair dryers, which states that mica and asbestos were both commonly used. I also enclosed three trademark records for Conair: the Pro Style, the Pro Style 1200, and the Pistol Power 1200, all of which, I believe contained asbestos.

The important points from all of this are that both asbestos and mica (and perhaps other insulating materials) were known and used from the earliest hair dryer inventions. When asbestos was banned in hair dryers, they replaced it with mica. Therefore, if companies knew of or suspected asbestos was a hazard, it would have been a simple matter to replace it.

Sincerely,

Stephen Berger, P.E.