

Bateman EX 44

23/5/90 AR

AAAI 18.

H.M. District Inspector of Factories,
973 Spring Bank West,
Hull.

Friday,
31st March,
1944.

Dear Sir,

Newalls Insulation Company Limited
Spraying Asbestos

Your letter of 21st March addressed to our
Subsidiary Company, Newalls Insulation Co. Ltd., at Washington
Station, County Durham, has been sent on to me for attention
as I deal with matters concerning the interpretation of the
Asbestosis Scheme and the Asbestos Regulations.

I think it appropriate first to mention that we
are, within this organisation, at all times very desirous of
taking all precautions in connection with the use of asbestos
fibre, and I am sure that the Senior Medical Inspector of
Factories would confirm that this is so. At the same time it
should be mentioned that, so far as we understand the position,
the Asbestosis Scheme and the Regulations do not in general
apply to this Roberts Spray process, and that, by taking the
precautions we have, we are in fact already doing considerably
more than comply with any statutory requirements. Respirators
are worn by those who are actually operating the Spray Machines,
as they handle asbestos fibre when filling the hoppers of the
machines, but - so far as I understand the process - there is
no dry asbestos dust after the hoppers have been filled, as
the sprayed material is a mixture and the fibre is damp.
Having regard to this it seems to me that Regulation No. 10 with
regard to respirators does not apply.

You will no doubt appreciate that work by
plasterers in a room or space on board ship in which the Spray
Machines are being operated is purely a War-time problem, i.e.
on account of the urgency of the work, and I expect that even
under present War-time conditions this only happens occasionally.
Therefore, if there is any risk, which I rather doubt, the
plasterers are only involved occasionally, and I understand that

overleaf

PLAINTIFF'S
EXHIBIT

TN 3262

this simultaneous work by Spray operatives and plasterers only takes place when the necessity of completing the job speedily makes this unavoidable.

I understand that the question of the use of the Spray process generally on board ship is under consideration by the Factory Department, and I know that Dr. Merewether has been in touch with our Subsidiary Company, J. W. Roberts Ltd. of Leeds (the holders of the Patent), with regard to this question. It may be of interest to mention that although the Spray process was patented some 13 years ago and has been used for several years to a very considerable extent indeed, there have been no cases of asbestosis among any of the employees concerned.

I should be very interested to receive your comments on the contents of this letter, and if you think it advisable I would be glad to raise the question with Dr. Merewether and obtain his views.

Yours faithfully,

for TURNER & NEWALL LIMITED,

JLC/OP
RCS/AG

Secretary.

J. L. COLLINS

but see 1430's
medical inspection
reports