FILE NAME: Asbestos in Hair Dryers (HD)

DATE: 1979 Apr 9

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DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Letter to CPSC from The Gillette Co. RE Special Order - Portable Hand-Held Electric Hair Dryers

APR 10 1979

Sara Fleschner
Attorney
Office of the General Counsel

The Gillette Company
Prudential Tower Building
Boston, Massachusetts 02199
(617) 421-7000

April 9, 1979

Office of the Secretary
Consumer Product Safety Commission
Third Floor
1111 - 18th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20207

Special Order - Portable Hand-Held Electric Hair Dryers

Gentlemen:

This letter is in response to the Commission's Special Order for Submission of Information, dated March 29, 1979 to The Gillette Company, Appliance Division. The information requested is set forth as follows:

1. State the name of your firm and address of your principal place of business. Specify whether you are a manufacturer, importer, and/or private labeler of portable hand-held electric hair dryers (dryers).

The Gillette Company
Appliance Division
Prudential Tower Building
Boston, MA 02199

We are an importer of portable hand-held electric hair dryers.

2. a. Are asbestos materials now being used in dryers your firm is manufacturing, importing, or labeling?

No.

b. Are these asbestos materials in the nozzle lining, wire insulation, motor insulation, or other locations where asbestos is exposed to the dryer's air stream?

Not applicable.

3. a. Have asbestos materials been used in dryers your firm manufactured, imported, or labeled within the last ten years?

Yes.

b. Are these asbestos materials in the nozzel lining, wire insulation, motor insulation, or other locations where asbestos is exposed to the dryer's air stream?

Yes.

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4. If you answer yes to 2(b) and/or 3(b), please provide the following information in the order listed for each identifiable group of dryers. To facilitate review of the information, please provide this information in charts or by other means that will relate each item of information to a particular identifiable group of dryers.

a. Identification number (e.g. brand name, style, model number, and/or production date code number.)

b. Specific dates during which your firm manufactured, imported and/or labeled the dryers and the approximate number of dryers manufactured, imported and/or labeled each date or time period.

c. Specific distribution of where the asbestos materials are located in the dryers (e.g. nozzle lining, wire insulation, or motor insulation).

d. If you are the importer and/or private labeler, the name and address of the manufacturer.

SEE CHART ATTACHED AS EXHIBIT A.

5. a. Have asbestos materials been used in dryers your firm manufactured, imported or labeled more than ten years ago?

No.

b. Are these asbestos materials in the nozzle lining, wire insulation, or motor insulation or other locations where asbestos is exposed to the dryer's air stream?

Not applicable.

6. a. Has your firm or anyone on its behalf conducted tests on your dryers to determine whether respirable asbestos in your dryers is emitted into the air stream or any other tests related to the use of asbestos in your dryers?

Yes.

b. Do you know of any other tests or studies regarding the use of asbestos in hair dryers?

None other than the 3/19/79 EMV Associates Study.

c. Please provide the name, address, and telephone number of a person in your firm with whom the Commissions Staff could discuss these studies or testing of asbestos in hair dryers in general.

Sara Fleschner
Attorney
The Gillette Company
Prudential Tower Building
Boston, MA 02199
Tel. (617) 421-7883

7. Please provide the name, title, address and telephone number of the person filing the response to this order.

Sara Fleschner
Attorney
The Gillette Company
Prudential Tower Building
Boston, MA 02199
Tel. (617) 421-7883

I am authorized to and hereby request that the chart attached to this letter as Exhibit A be treated confidentially as trade secret, commercial information. The information contained in said chart has not been released to anyone except Gillette employees and persons in a confidential relationship to Gillette. This information is not commonly known within the industry or readily ascertainable by outside persons with a minimum of time and effort and the release of such information would be likely to place Gillette at a substantial competitive disadvantage.

I also enclose a Delegation of Authority granting me the authority to answer the Special Order on behalf of Gillette.

Sincerely,

Sara Fleschner

SCF/bw

Enclosures

cc: F. Baseggio
D. Fausch
R. Giovacchini
S. Griffin
E. Hoffman
R. Long
C. Mockler
J. Mullaney
R. Nelson
R. Ray
J. Ronan
J. Turley

EXHIBIT A

Chart In Response to Question #4

Model	Name	Mfg. Dates	Qty.	Asbestos Location
Hand Held Dryers				
THD-2	Max	7/71 - 12/73	1,726,000	Coil Support String
THD-2A	Max Plus	2/72 - 12/73	114,000	" " "
HD-3	Max for Men	6/72 - 4/73	831,000	" " "
HD-4	Max	5/73 - 4/74*	651,000	" " "
HD-5	Supermax	3/72 - 5/73	1,201,000	" " "
Bonnet Dryer				
AD-6	Max Hatter	10/72 - 12/74	607,000	Insulator below & above heater coils

Mfg. #1 Yamada Electric Ind. Co., Ltd.
No. 516 Nakahara
Matsudo City
Chiba-Ken, Japan
(All above models)

Mfg. #2 Nishiki Industries, Inc.
36, 5-Chome Kakuozan-Dori
Chikusaku, Nagoya Prefecture
Japan
(Model THD-2 only)

*Approx. 10,000 of the 651,000 units were produced in September, 1974.

Colman M. Mockler, Jr.
Chairman of the Board

The Gillette Company
Prudential Tower Building
Boston, Massachusetts 02199

DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY

I, Colman M. Mockler, Jr. hereby certify that I am Chief Executive Officer of The Gillette Company and that as such I am authorized to sign documents on behalf of said company and to certify on behalf of said company the accuracy and completeness of information in such documents.

Pursuant to the power vested in me, I hereby delegate a portion of my authority to Sara Fleschner, Attorney, The Gillette Company, Prudential Tower Building, Boston, Massachusetts 02199. This authority extends to signing written reports to the CPSC on behalf of The Gillette Company and to certifying to the accuracy and completeness of information in such reports with respect to asbestos in hair dryers.

This delegation is effective until a written revocation is filed with the Consumer Product Safety Commission, Product Defect Correction Division.

Dated: April 6, 1979

Signed: Colman M. Mockler, Jr.

Colman M. Mockler, Jr.
Chairman of the Board of Directors and Chief Executive Officer

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