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SPRAYED MINERAL FIBER MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

SUITE 2300, ONE WALL STREET, NEW YORK, N. Y. 10005

J. P. VERHALEN, PRESIDENT
United States Mineral Products Company
A. E. SINGER, VICE PRESIDENT
Smith & Kanzier Company

J. H. WITKOP, SECRETARY
Baldwin-Zehrt-Hill, Inc.
H. L. LEVINE, TREASURER
Asbestospray Corporation

January 5, 1967

Mr. George Sherman, Chief
Division of Industrial Safety
Department of Industrial Relations
3460 Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles, California 90005



Gentlemen:

The Sprayed Mineral Fiber Manufacturers Association has been advised that a notice was issued by the Department of Industrial Safety to Safety Engineers, outlining procedures to follow in the application of sprayed fireproofing materials which contain asbestos. A copy of this inter communication, dated September 21, 1966, on the subject: "Application of Fireproofing", was sent to the Los Angeles Building and Trades Council, it being understood to have resulted from an "investigation" which they requested.

On September 29, 1966, the Los Angeles Building and Trades Council issued a Bulletin to Business Representatives, Affiliated Local Unions and Craft Councils, quoting the inter communication and elaborating further upon the potential health hazard that may exist.

Since all members of the Sprayed Mineral Fiber Manufacturers Association issue detailed instructions to their contractors recommending the use of suitable protective masks by workmen directly involved in the sprayed fireproofing operation, statements concerning this are not questioned.

We should like to inquire, however, concerning the extent of the investigation and the data developed which prompt the cautions that "all other workmen should be kept out of the spraying area," and "As soon as the spraying is completed, require the area to be cleaned up thoroughly before it dries out."

We should like to point out that the Hygienic Guides Series on Asbestos, promulgated by the American Industrial Hygiene Association, establishes the Threshold Limit Value at 5.0 million parts per cubic foot, which represents conditions under which it is believed that nearly all workers may be repeatedly exposed day after day through a lifetime of work without adverse effect. We understand that the Federal Government and most State Agencies have accepted this recommended maximum atmospheric concentration.

January 5, 1967

To our knowledge, the only extensive testing done by a State Agency was performed recently by the Division of Safety and Hygiene of the Industrial Commission of Ohio, and a copy of their report dated June 21, 1966 is enclosed. This report concluded that the exposure to other workers is well below the Threshold Limit Value.

Because unnecessary cautions, which cause undue alarm, can create a hardship for our industry, and because we are concerned to know that adequate cautions are properly stated in order to protect the interests of the members of our industry, we will very much appreciate receiving more detailed information on the investigation and the data developed from it.

Very sincerely,

SPRAYED MINERAL FIBER MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION

By _____

J. P. Verhalen,
President

JPV/deo
Enc.

cc: Mr. J. A. Cinquemini, Executive Secretary
Los Angeles Building and Construction Trades Council
1526 Beverly Boulevard
Los Angeles, California 90026

cc: Mr. V. C. Mathis, Assistant to Executive Secretary
Los Angeles Building and Construction Trades Council

cc: Mr. Ernest B. Webb, Chief
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