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EMPLOYEE RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

HASKELL LABORATORY
FOR
TOXICOLOGY AND INDUSTRIAL MEDICINE

September 28, 1972

EDWIN E. SWAIN, JR.
FABRICS & FINISHES DEPARTMENT
B-2371

ASBESTOS IN PAINT FILMS

Refs.: Letter, E. E. Swain to C. F. Reinhardt, 9-19-72
Telecon, R. E. Reinke to E. E. Swain, 9-26-72

This letter will confirm my verbal report that no data were found pertaining to the health hazards of asbestos fiber that is bound or encapsulated in paint. The use of asbestos in paint is referenced in J. Dunn's letter of September 21 but these as well as other "use" references do not discuss possible hazards, if any.

Bound or encapsulated asbestos is used in floor tile, however, and exposure to asbestos from installing floor tile has been connected by Murphy et al. (1) with asbestos - related diseases. The comments on this case in a recent NIOSH report (2) suggest a) that the hazard potential from installation of floor tile containing asbestos will receive close scrutiny in the foreseeable future and b) scrutiny of the hazard from other applications of bound or encapsulated asbestos is not unlikely.

It would appear prudent to evaluate the probable asbestos exposure from paint, as you are contemplating. Exposure conditions should preferably include removal of old paint (sanding, scraping, and/or burning) consistent with normal painting practice, as well as application of new paint. It is, of course, quite possible that similar investigation is planned or even started elsewhere. After review of the available data, you may wish to contact a consultant knowledgeable in current research in this field or NIOSH.

Please don't hesitate to call if we can be of further assistance.

Ruth E. Reinke
RUTH E. REINKE

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RER/jmh

Enclosures (4): Copy of J. Dunn's letter of 9-21 with accompanying photo-copy plus 3 references as on the next page.

bcc: S. J. Harkins

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Ag

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SC-DP-03970

References

1. Murphy, Raymond L., Barry W. Levine, Faiq J. Al Bazzaz, John J. Lynch, and William A Burgess. "Floor Tile Installation as a Source of Asbestos Exposure". American Review of Respiratory Disease 104: 576-580, 1971.
Copy enclosed.

2. U. S. National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. "Criteria for a recommended standard... Occupational Exposure to Asbestos". U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., 1972. Copy of pp. i - v, III - 17 to III - 24, and VII - 5 enclosed. (S. J. Harkins, Haskell Laboratory, expects to receive and forward to you a complete copy for retention, within a week.)

Supplementary Reference. Pryor, A. J., D. E. Johnson, and N. N. Jackson. "Hazards of Smoke and Toxic Gases Produced in Urban Fires." Southwest Research Institute, San Antonio, Texas. Copy of pp. iii, v, 33, and 50 enclosed. (As mentioned in our conversation, combustion products from the burning of vinyl-asbestos floor tile were tested but the data appear marginally relevant.)

Search: As indicated plus Chemical Abstracts 1962-1971 (vols. 56-74 - no obviously pertinent index entries found).