



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
BUSINESS AND DEFENSE SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20230

160
10/11/68
November 12, 1968

Mr. Victor E. Johnson
Assistant Commissioner
Office of Property Management, PMDS
General Services Administration
Washington, D.C. 20405

Dear Mr. Johnson:

In accordance with the request in your letter of October 15, 1968, we have reviewed your proposed revision of that portion of the Storage Manual dealing with precautions to be taken in regard to asbestos. We have also reviewed the other pages in the Manual covering this material.

In the course of this review, our Miscellaneous Minerals and Metals Division consulted certain asbestos producing companies as well as the Asbestos Textile Institute and it submitted to this Office a summary of their comments (copy attached). It appears from this that there is an increasing concern regarding the danger of handling asbestos in bulk or unlined burlap bags and that the precautions specified in your proposed revision follow generally industry's recommendations. However, it should be noted that the biggest company recommends a further precaution of washing in the plant clothes of those handling the material in bulk or unlined burlap bags. You may want to consider including this arrangement in the "Precautions" if feasible. It was also recommended that an impermeable container or liner be used in all cases. In this respect, we are re-examining the Stockpile Purchase Specification and Special Instructions for possible amendments of packaging instructions. However, generally we believe the draft of your revision of the precautionary aspects is appropriate.

Comment on the remaining asbestos pages of the Manual will have to await our review of packaging instructions in the Specifications and Instructions.

Sincerely,

Thomas Curtis

Thomas Curtis, Director
Office of Industrial Materials
Industrial Mobilization

Attachment

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402

December 2, 1968

Mr. J. A. Brown
 Raybestos-Manhattan, Inc.
 Asbestos Textile Division
 Mannheim, Pennsylvania 17545

Dear Mr. Brown:

A review of the Government asbestos stockpile specifications indicates that some improvement might be needed in the instructions for handling and storage in order to provide greater health protection to the personnel involved. It will be appreciated, therefore, if you will give us your opinion regarding the suitability of the paragraphs on packaging contained in the National Stockpile Purchase Specifications P-3-R4 for chrysotile and P-4-R5 for amosite, which are as follows:

"The chrysotile shall be packed in new bags equal to 12-ounce burlap Type I, No. B-6; or 8-ounce Osnaburg Type II, No. C-52 in Federal Specification FFP-B-35; Bags: Textile, Shipping, Burlap, Cotton and Waterproof Laminated. Each bag shall contain not more than 150 pounds of chrysotile.

All bags comprising any lot shall be of the same nominal size and shape."

"The amosite shall be packed in new bags equal to 12-ounce burlap Type I, No. B-6; or 8-ounce Osnaburg Type II, No. C-52 in Federal Specification FFP-B-35; Bags: Textile, Shipping, Burlap, Cotton and Waterproof Laminated. The amosite shall be packed in bags with the seam side out to prevent contamination of the asbestos fiber with material from the bag. Each bag shall contain not more than 150 pounds of amosite.

All bags comprising any lot shall be of the same nominal size and shape."

NOTE

Please suggest any special regulations you believe advisable in the event it is necessary to handle loose fiber such as using inhalators, leaning clothes, etc. Also, please indicate whether all of these regulations should apply to crocidolite as well as to chrysotile and amosite.

Your comments will be very helpful and greatly appreciated. BB 0018402

Sincerely yours,

Carl A. Chen
 Miscellaneous Metals
 and Minerals Division

CAC:mr/ler

c: Mr. Owens; Field Office, Chemist Chen

403

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403

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The attached letter was sent to the following:

Mr. J. A. Brown
Raybestos-Manhattan, Inc.
Asbestos Textile Division
Manheim, Pennsylvania 17545

further reply promised

Mr. M. C. Carpenter
Vice President, Building Products Group
400 Westchester Avenue
White Plains, New York 10604

Mr. John Weber, President
American Asbestos Textile Corporation
1032 Stanbridge Street
Norristown, Pennsylvania 19404

Mr. Robert E. Cryer, President
North American Asbestos Corporation
200 S. Michigan Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60604

H. K. Porter Company, Inc.
Thermoid Division
P. O. Box 10316
Charlotte, North Carolina 28201

Mr. H. R. Maddux
Director of Purchases
The Philip Carey Bldg.
Cincinnati, Ohio 45215

Mr. William Vell
Pittsburgh Corning Corporation
Lewis Tower Building
225 South 15th Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19102

John - Maurice (Bill) Winblad
Dr. Louis Brodley, Public Health
Certainated Products - Leo Loll

BB 0018403

December 2, 1968
Misc. Metals & Minerals I
cc: Chron
Owens

~~Copy~~ 0404

Attachment C-24
Pittsburgh Corning Corporation
One Gateway Center
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15222
BYRL STOUT
Vice President of Manufacturing

December 10, 1968

Mr. Carl A. Gnam
Miscellaneous Metals and Minerals Division
U. S. Department of Commerce
Business and Defense Services Administration
Washington, D. C. 20230

Dear Mr. Gnam:

Your letter of December 2, 1968 to our Mr. William Woll has been referred to me.

Pittsburgh Corning Corporation manufactures asbestos insulation containing only the amosite fiber. For complete information regarding the special requirements necessary in the handling of all types of asbestos, I recommend that you contact - Dr. Lewis J. Cralley, Director of Epidemiology and Field Studies, National Center for Urban and Industrial Health, Public Health Services, 1014 Broadway, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202.

Dr. Cralley has served as a consultant for Pittsburgh Corning Corporation and is well qualified to supply the information you requested.

Yours very truly,

PITTSBURGH CORNING CORPORATION

Byrl M. Stout
Byrl M. Stout

Vice President of Manufacturing

BMS/rh

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MISC. METALS AND
DIVISION

I T T S B U R G H P C C O R N I N



H. K. PORTER COMPANY, INC. ^{MINERALS AND} THERMOID DIVISION

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(9)
CHARLOTTE W. RKS
P. O. Box 10316
Charlotte, North Carolina

December 16, 1968

Mr. Carl A. Gnam
U. S. Department of Commerce
Business and Defense Services Administration
Washington, D. C.

Subject: Handling and Storage of Asbestos Fiber
U. S. Dept. of Commerce Memo of December 2, 1968

Dear Mr. Gnam:

The type of bags specified in the National Stockpile Purchase Specifications P-3-R4 for chrysotile and P-4-R5 for amosite, is okay. I would suggest that each bag contain not over 100 pounds instead of 150 pounds.

I would suggest a mechanical vibrator for emptying the bags similar to a "Bag Shaker". The bag is hung with mouth of bag down. After hung in this position, strings at the mouth are cut and the shaker turned on to empty the bag. The operators can walk away and not have to stand over the bag breathing the dust.

We hope our comments will be of some assistance to you.

Very truly yours, NOT

J. D. McCluer

J. D. McCluer
Director, Research & Development

JDM:bbk

cc: Mr. Harold F. Jones

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December 17, 1968

Dr. Lewis J. Cralley
Director of Epidemiology & Field Studies
National Center for Urban & Industrial Health
Public Health Services
1014 Broadway
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

Dear Dr. Cralley:

Recently, we asked several companies which produce or consume asbestos to comment on the present instructions for packaging and handling asbestos contained in the Government stockpiles. The purpose is to provide the greatest possible health protection to the personnel that may handle the fiber. Mr. Byril H. Stout, Vice President of the Pittsburgh Corning Corporation, has suggested that we contact you since you are their consultant on such matters.

Instructions in the National Stockpile Specification P-3-R4 for chrysotile and P-4-R5 for amosite are as follows:

"The chrysotile shall be packed in new bags equal to 12-ounce burlap Type I, No. B-6; or 8-ounce Conaburg Type II, No. C-52 in Federal Specification PPT-B-35; Bags: Textile, Shipping, Burlap, Cotton and Waterproof Laminated. Each bag shall contain not more than 150 pounds of chrysotile.

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All bags comprising any lot shall be of the same nominal size and shape."

Please suggest any special regulations you believe advisable in the event it is necessary to handle loose fiber such as using inhalators, cleaning clothes, etc. Also please indicate whether all of these regulations should apply to crocidolite as well as to chrysotile and amosite.

Your comments will be very helpful and greatly appreciated.

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Sincerely yours,

Carl A. Chen
Miscellaneous Metals
and Minerals Division

407

407

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