

July 2, 1943

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mr. A. McDougall

FROM: A. B. Tatistcheff

SUBJECT: Asbestos -- Substitution of Other Rhodesian Chrysotile Grades for Grades C & G

In accordance with our promise at the meeting of the Operating Committee of the Combined Raw Materials Board yesterday, I am happy to give you the following information which you will no doubt wish to pass on to the Ministry of Supply.

C & G/3 and C & G/4

Although supplies of these grades appear ample both for the United States and the United Kingdom, the War Production Board arranged last fall to have 10 tons each of VRA/3 and VRA/4 sent to the United States for experimental purposes. Our manufacturers evaluated these fibers and found them to be talcy and not equivalent to the C & G grades, and stated that they would not use them under any circumstances.

In respect to HVL/3 and HVL/3XX, our manufacturers found that they were not entirely suitable for their use. One manufacturer agreed to take 50% HVL/3 in the place of C & G/3, but he had no use whatsoever for HVL/3XX.

C & G/2

In the spring of 1943 the War Production Board arranged for a sample of VRA/2. This fiber was very carefully examined by the principal user of C & G/2 in this country. Very careful tests were made, and it was found that the shrinkage as received, after crushing and after opening, was considerably in excess of C & G/2. The card shrinkage, as well as the core roving waste, was almost double, and the tensile strength was about 60% less. The War Production Board feels that in an emergency this fiber might be used as a substitute for C & G/2, but its value under any test, whether laboratory or production is decidedly less.



As regards HVL/2, a manufacturer in this country endeavored to obtain a sample for test. I quote from a letter received by the War Production Board from this manufacturer.

"As I mentioned to you when at the meeting on Friday, September 25, Turner & Newall may produce some HVL/2 from the Havelock Mine, which may be used in part as a substitute for C&O #2. They were going to experiment with this fibre and assess the value of the grade, and after the production of HVL/2 becomes standardised, they will, no doubt, send us a sample so we can try it in our mill.

"We received this information from Mr. Shepherd, of Turner & Newall, during the latter part of August, and on September 21, received a letter from them stating that supplies of HVL/2 are "likely to continue, for some considerable time, to suffer from surface contamination. We feel sure that you will not wish to receive any material which is not up to proper standard and representative of continuous supplies. We therefore propose to leave the order on our books for completion as soon as the position at our Mines makes this possible. This being so, the consignment will be invoiced at the price ruling at date of shipment.

"We shall, no doubt, receive additional information from Turner & Newall as the year progresses, and will keep you advised as soon as we find out that this is a usable fibre in our production."

The War Production Board states that until Turner & Newall see fit to send these samples, tests can not be performed, but that as soon as the samples of HVL/2 are submitted they will make certain that these are thoroughly tested by users in the United States.

AT:HW

A. B. Tatistcheff

cc: Mr. W. T. Meloy
Mr. Henry Behre
Mr. H. C. Sykes
Mr. Kurt Lowenstein