FILE NAME: Goodyear (GY)

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R G Cummings
Mgr - Corp Safety
D/1080 - Akron, Ohio

Point Pleasant Chemical Plant

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E J Burkett/1100
W B Hirsch
P F Edelmann
J W Love

Asbestos

We have eliminated the use of asbestos and asbestos-bearing materials in this plant except where we have been unable to find acceptable substitutes. We are still using gaskets reinforced with asbestos and valve and pump packing which is nearly 100% asbestos.

The use of asbestos gaskets and packing is very commonplace in industry today, and I assume it is common in all Goodyear plants. Can you have a Corporate Study run on handling problems of gaskets and packing. We need questions answered, such as:

1. Does the binder in gaskets tie down the asbestos so there is no hazard?
2. Do gaskets have to be put in impermeable bags and disposed of in an approved sanitary landfill?
3. Are special precautions necessary for storage of precut gaskets in stores?
4. Are there differences in the exposure for different types of packing impregnation? Are some nonhazardous and others bad?
5. Is isolation necessary for an area to cut gaskets from sheet stock? This is for odd sizes and ones out of stock.

The December 6, 1976 memorandum on asbestos insulation is unclear. I am familiar with asbestos mats, woven asbestos strip and tubing, asbestos felt, and loose asbestos fill material. These items leave no doubt; they are to be handled per the memorandum. The big question is on calcium silicate block and pipe insulation that was reinforced with asbestos, and also, the insulating cement with asbestos base. Do we have to take the same precautions in handling material with a small percentage asbestos as the 100% asbestos?

I assume that you are aware that a plant like this is loaded with insulation. We are constantly removing and replacing insulation to perform pipeline and equipment cleaning and repair leaks. We have expended 8,819 manhours on insulation repair during the first ten months of this year. You can see why I do not want to impose excessive, unnecessary restrictions of performing this work - my costs will increase still more.

I will appreciate any guidance you can give me so that we can conform to the regulations at a minimum cost.

J W Coonen
Manager - Engineering

csg

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