CERTAIN-TEED PRODUCTS CORPORATION

July 8, 1957

TO: Messrs: C. G. Shuttleworth - Paoli Lab
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H. Ohm - St. Louis
Tom Dalton - St. Louis
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FROM: Paoli Lab.

THIS COPY FOR

SUBJECT: ACOUSTICAL PLASTER FOR MACHINE APPLICATION

DICTATED BY: J. R. Watt - jc

Two and one half tons of our new acoustical plaster, formulated especially for machine application, was shipped via truck 6/22/57 from Fort Dodge to Kahlmeyer Bros. Bldg. Materials, St. Louis, Mo. Previous arrangements had been made for Robertson Plastering Co. to apply this material with a Karelius plaster machine the first of the following week with someone from Paoli being present to observe results.

I met Mr. Tom Dalton, salesman, in St. Louis Monday morning 6/24/57. The material had arrived at Kahlmeyer Bros. but could not be delivered to the job until the following morning. We made several calls that morning and called on Mr. George F. Robertson, owner, Robertson Plastering Co. He told us the job where he had originally intended using our acoustical plaster had already been finished. He said he could use some as a base coat acoustical on a school job but that the specifications called for Zonolite acoustical plaster so the finish coat would have to be Zonolite. This was not a fair test so Mr. Dalton and I contacted several other plasterers who had plaster machines of any type to try to get one of them to apply some of our acoustical plaster also. None of them had an acoustical plaster job ready at that time.

Tuesday morning our special neat plaster which was shipped with the acoustical plaster was tried for brown coat by Robertson Plastering Co. in a Karelius machine on the M-17 school building. Mr. Robertson was on the job and after the tests were finished the testing of the acoustical was again discussed. This time he said he just didn't have any area ready for acoustical plaster. Finally he looked the school over and found one classroom which he agreed to use our acoustical for the base coat. This was to be done the next afternoon due to the machine being tied up in the morning. Wednesday we were told that there were two small leaks in the classroom and they didn't think the room should be sprayed until the roof was repaired. Finally arrangements were made to get the roof taken care of and definite plan were made to apply the base coat of acoustical plaster the first thing the next morning.

The first thing Thursday morning the acoustical plaster was applied. Somewhat more mixing water was used than we used applying the base coat in the Laboratory with the E-7-ON machine. Our instructions say 60-70 quarts water per 40 lbs. of acoustical plaster. To obtain the consistency they normally use pumping acoustical plaster in the Karelius machine, it took 75 to 80 quarts water for 40 lbs. of acoustical plaster. Each batch was mixed a minimum of five minutes. Most batches were mixed 7 to 10 minutes. The material was then dumped into the hopper of the machine. When using acoustical a 3/8" screen is put on top of this hopper and the material must go through this screen. Some of the longer asbestos fibers caught on this screen but the entire ceiling (approximately 105 sq. yds.) was finished without having to clean the screen. The mixer man said that this material took more mixing water than Sprayolite. He did not remember just how much water he used with Sprayolite.

There were several rust spots on the gypsum base coat near the skylights. Before applying the acoustical plaster they put a coat of lime putty over each of these spots. They say this has been effective in preventing rust from migrating through the acoustical plaster.

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PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT

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The gypsum base coat was thoroughly dry. The material pumped very good and the nozzle did not stop up at any time. The pressure at the machine was 40 lbs. which they said was normal with acoustical plasters. There was no sagging or drop-outs. Some low spots were filled in with the trowel and the plasterers said it worked nice under the trowel. It worked very well under the darby. Coverage was approximately 10 sq. yds 1/2" thick per 40 lbs. of acoustical plaster. Their comments were that it worked very similar to Sprayolite in the machine and when applied with the trowel. They consider Sprayolite to be a satisfactory material. That afternoon we came back to the job and they were troweling the rough spots out. It troweled nicely except in one small spot where they drew "fat" to the surface which caused a few small blisters. In my opinion the base coat should be left at least over night before troweling to smooth out the marks left by the darby.

Friday morning we went back and Mr. Robertson was on the job. It looked very good and there were no fissure cracks. After seeing this ceiling he decided to go ahead and use our material throughout the entire school for both basecoat and finish. When questioned about the fact that specifications called for Zonolite he said he could get around that all right. They intended to apply the finish coat over this ceiling the first part of the following week. Friday afternoon just before I left they sprayed our acoustical over another gypsum basecoat which was partially dry. This also went on with no trouble. So far the material has worked entirely satisfactory.

Mr. Dalton is to watch the finish coat being applied and follow the job to conclusion. He is to report on bond after dry, whether any large fissures develop in the base coat, application, texture and color of finish coat, check for any rust which might migrate to the surface and give us a complete report together with his comments when the job is completed.

When we were trying to find another plasterer to try our acoustical plaster several comments of interest were made about competitive acoustical plasters.

1. Mr. Art Reauseau, Mississippi Valley Coal Co., Alton, Ill. - handles Gold Bond Sprayolite acoustical plaster. His costs delivered are $2.40 per 40 lb. bag of natural color and $3.00 per bag of the Super White. Plasterers say they get 8 sq. yds. coverage 1/2" thick per bag.

2. Mr. C. B. Neudecker, plastering contractor, Alton, Ill. - has E-Z-ON Jr. plastering machine which he uses only for acoustical plaster. Uses only Sprayolite and always sprays over a completely dry base. Have sprayed direct to concrete and painted brick with good results.

3. Mr. Lee, Lee Bros, Lathing & Plastering, St. Louis, Mo.- said both Zonolite and Sprayolite acoustical plasters contain a rust preventative. Gold Bond salesmen told him they guarantee rust will not come through. USG Audicote contains no rust preventative and rust comes through. We intend to make comparative tests to determine if this is true.

   He said many architects are specifying a light reflection of 80 on acoustical plasters and that none of those containing perlite, fiber & clay have this high light reflection. This is true of their super white finishes also. When this light reflection is specified Kil-Noise is being used. This material contains lime & after applied holes must be punched in it to obtain the acoustical effect. He said that USG now has a material similar to Kil-Noise which they call Auto-Lite.

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Mr. Dalton and I both felt that we did not get the cooperation from Mr. Robertson that we should have. He had been advised in advance when the material was to arrive and had agreed to have a dry base ready to spray it on Monday. It looked for several days as if we weren't going to get any of it applied that week. Mr. Robertson took very little interest in getting some of it on for us and it was not until Wednesday when we asked him to tell us definitely whether or not he was going to apply some of it for us that we finally got some action.

Will Mr. Dalton please give us a final report on this acoustical plaster as soon as possible.

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