REPORT
UNITED STATES GYPSUM
RESEARCH CENTER

Gypsum Products & Paper

21586
1-2400-33
7-10-74
0-83 #474-73
N.B. #4145, p. 1-

PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT
USG 148

Elimination of Asbestos from Plaster Products - Canadian Gypsum Company.

Four Canadian Gypsum Company plaster products have contained varying amounts of asbestos fiber. Based on the probability that activity in safety and pollution regarding asbestos fiber would spread to Canada it was considered prudent to eliminate asbestos from all CGC plaster products.

The four products and the action taken are as follows:

1. Hillsborough Regular Hardwall Plaster - asbestos eliminated from formu with no other formula modification. Cost savings, approx. $1050 annua

2. Montreal ORIENTAL Exterior Finish Stucco - asbestos eliminated from formula with no other formula modification. Cost savings approx. $507 annually.

3. Hagersville AUDICOTE Acoustical Plaster - no reformulation attempted; product will be discontinued when current stock of asbestos is deplete

4. Hagersville BONDCRETE Plaster for Concrete - Research has supplied Hagersville with a paper fiber (non-asbestos) formula. Plant and Rese testing indicates paper fiber formula to be a suitable substitute. Canadian Marketing and Purchasing Departments will have to field trial the material and locate a source for the paper fiber. Effect on cost is not known at this time.

Based on the above results, Research participation in the project to remove asbestos from CGC plaster products is completed. Any further action will be the responsibility of Canadian Marketing and Operating Departments.

aac

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* Summary Only

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INTRODUCTION:

In March, 1973 Research initiated a program to eliminate asbestos from Canadian Gypsum Company plaster products. Those plants and products involved were Hillsborough's Regular Hardwall Plaster, Montreal's ORIENTAL Exterior Finish Stucco, Hagersville's BONDCRETE Plaster for Concrete, and Hagersville's AUDICOTE Accoustical Plaster. The purpose of removing the asbestos was the probability that activity in safety and pollution regarding asbestos fiber would soon spread to Canada. It was considered prudent to eliminate asbestos from all CGC plaster products as soon as feasible to avoid product liability.

REPORT:

The plan for the elimination of asbestos fiber from CGC plaster products was the same as was used for USG plaster products:

1. Remove the asbestos from the product.
2. Reformulate if necessary.
3. If reformulation not feasible or a low volume product, remove the product from the market.

Hillsborough Regular Hardwall Plaster.

The elimination of asbestos from Hagersville Regular Hardwall Plaster was handled by plant personnel. Plant trials and later field trials indicated asbestos could be eliminated from the formula without problems. By Hillsborough's request, on Operating Bulletin revision dated 1/9/74 eliminated asbestos from this plaster product. Based on 1973 tonnage of this product shipped, 26,925 lbs. of asbestos per year was eliminated, resulting in a cost savings of approximately $1050 annually.

Montreal ORIENTAL Exterior Finish Stucco.

Mr. J. R. Hood advised Research by letter on 2/2/74 that future production of ORIENTAL Stucco at Montreal would not contain asbestos. A 5/1/74 Operating Bulletin Revision indicated asbestos to be deleted from the Montreal ORIENTAL formula. Based on 1972 tonnage, (strike activity curtailed 1973 production) the use of 10,782 lbs. of asbestos per year was eliminated, representing a cost saving of approximately $507 annually.

Hagersville AUDICOTE Acoustical Plaster.

Mr. J. R. Hood, Toronto #270-Q advised Research in his 2/20/74 letter the status of the elimination of asbestos from AUDICOTE at Hagersvil

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he wrote as follows:

> "We plan to continue the production of AUDICOTE until the use of asbestos is prohibited. Should the non-asbestos BONDCRETE formulation be satisfactory, the asbestos stock at Hagersville, plus that transferred from Montreal, will be used in AUDICOTE production. No more asbestos will be purchased. Should this stock be deleted before the use of asbestos is prohibited, we will cease production of AUDICOTE at that earlier date."

Based on 1973 tonnage of AUDICOTE shipped, the removal of AUDICOTE from the product line will eliminate the use of 5,232 lbs. per year of asbestos.

Hagersville BONDCRETE Plaster for Concrete.

Hagersville submitted to Research samples of BONDCRETE Plaster made with and without asbestos. Testing at Research indicated the asbestos-free formula lacked the "feel" and "slip" of the asbestos formula. It was determined these qualities could be rebuilt into the non-asbestos formula by the addition of 10 lb/Ton of board plant paper fiber.

The Hagersville plant produced one trial charge of the 10 lb/Ton paper fiber BONDCRETE (non-asbestos) plaster formulation. Their initial plant testing appeared quite promising and they requested Toronto Marketing to arrange suitable field trials. A sample of the paper fiber BONDCRETE was sent to Research where tensile and compressive strength tests were conducted. At comparable densities, these tests indicated the paper fiber formula to be approximately 25% stronger than the asbestos formula.

On 7-4-74 Research was advised by Mr. M. D. McCarthy of the Hagersville Plant that field trials of the paper fiber (non-asbestos) BONDCRETE formula had not been held to date. He also advised that the Oakfield plant has indicated they would be unable to supply Hagersville with paper fiber for the non-asbestos BONDCRETE formula. Hagersville will have to locate a new source for paper fiber.

Based on the Hagersville Plant test results and the results of testing at Research, the paper fiber BONDCRETE formula appears to satisfy the need for a non-asbestos BONDCRETE product. It will be up to Canadian Marketing to field trial the material and Canadian Purchasing Department to locate a source of the paper fiber. We consider Research participation in the non-asbestos BONDCRETE evaluation to be completed.

Based on the 1973 tonnage of BONDCRETE Plaster shipped from Hagersville, the substitution of the paper fiber formula for the asbestos BONDCRETE formula will eliminate the use of 7,680 lbs. per year of asbestos fiber. Until Canadian Purchasing develops a source and a cost for the paper fiber for Hagersville, it is not known whether there will be a cost saving with the paper fiber formula.