

FILE NAME: Owens-Corning (OC)

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UNITED FIRE & CASUALTY COMPANY



Full Multiple Lines of Insurance

4930 W. 77th St.
~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ 55435
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA ~~55435~~

CEDAR RAPIDS - IOWA

March 18, 1969

Owens-Corning Fiberglas Corp.
717 - 5th Avenue
New York City, New York

ATTENTION: MR. JOHN VYRBURG

Dear Mr. Vyrburg,

Your branch office on Wayzata Blvd. in Minneapolis has referred me to you regarding information concerning Kaylo Pipe Insulation.

We were the Workmens Compensation insurers for insureds known as Insul, Inc. in Minneapolis. They, we are informed, used your product known as Kaylo Pipe Insulation which I understand is a magnesia type pipe covering. They also, used your fiberglas pipe covering. Insul Inc. employed a Fred Herkal from May, 1960 until August, 1961 when he terminated his employment. He subsequently worked for six different employers. In October, 1967 Mr. Herkal succumbed to a lung condition alledgedly caused by asbestosis. The widow has filed an action against the seven employers making us one of the defendants.

We would like to know the composition of the magnesia type insulation and a breakdown by percentage of the componets. Any pertinent information concerning the magnesia type and fiberglas insulation will be appreciated. Thank you for your cooperation.

Very truly yours,

UNITED FIRE & CASUALTY COMPANY

W. J. Hahn
W. J. Hahn

Minnesota Claims Manager

pt

4944

March 25, 1969

Mr. W. J. Hahn
United Fire and Casualty Co.
4930 W. 77th St.
Minneapolis, Minn. 55435

Dear Mr. Hahn:

Your letter of March 18, 1969 to John Vyverberg of our New York office has been referred to me for reply.

Enclosed are several reports of medical research studies and investigations that were conducted for the purpose of determining the biological effects of exposure to fibrous glass particles.

Fibrous glass has not demonstrated, during the past thirty years, that it has properties that cause lung disease. It does not cause asbestosis and, to our knowledge, no case of silicosis has resulted from exposure to air-borne fibrous glass. This last statement frequently surprises those who are unfamiliar with the physical structure and chemical makeup of glass.

Glass is a silicate and does not contain free silica. Silica does cause silicosis. Glass is amorphous, whereas silica and asbestos are crystalline in structure. The crystalline materials have been shown to be more pathogenic than the amorphous substances. Most of the fragmented and air-borne glass particles from the glass insulations are too large to enter the lungs. If the particles cannot enter the lungs, they cannot cause lung disease. On the other hand, should the glass particles be milled or impinged to form very small particles capable of being inspired by laboratory animals (see "Glass Dust: A Study of Its Biologic Effects", page 34/22, Summary and Conclusions), no serious lung or bronchial disease was demonstrated.

Sat. Air-Lane (Wright)

Glass Dust (Ereco)

J.F.

File Lead

Mr. W. J. Hahn

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March 25, 1969

Therefore, exposure to fibrous glass can be dismissed as being a contributing factor in this case.

Did Mr. Herkal actually handle or install Kaylo or other asbestos containing products during the period from May, 1960 to August, 1961? If so, how much of his time was spent with these products and was he subjected to high concentrations of dust? Objective symptoms of asbestosis are seldom demonstrable in less than 12 to 15 years of exposure and may require as much as 30 to 35 years.

Kaylo is anhydrous calcium silicate containing approximately 15% asbestos. The asbestos is contained in the calcium silicate *matrix* material and very little of the asbestos fiber will be released except when the product is sawed into desired shapes or stripped from pipes, boilers, etc.

A typical composition is: quicklime, tripoli, diatomite, clay, calcium chloride and asbestos. These materials are mixed with water and then indurated in an autoclave at 400°F and 250 p.s.i. for three hours.

If there are additional questions, please call or write.

Sincerely,

F. H. Edwards
Director of Health & Hygiene

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