METALS DIVISION

CUSTOMER CALL REPORT

CUSTOMER & LOCATION: Ford Motor Company, Dearborn, MI

INDUSTRY CLASSIFICATION: Automobiles

SALESMAN: Edward J. Kleber w/ H. B. Rhodes

REGION: Midwest

DATE OF CALL: 11/19/77

PRODUCTS DISCUSSED:

Cr	Mn	Spec.	Si	CaC_2	W	V	Asb.	Other:
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	

PERSONS INTERVIEWED: Carolyn B. Zelek - Sr. Engineer

PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT FD-76e

CALL OBJECTIVE: Try to find out what Ford's policy on the use of asbestos is.

RESULTS OF CALL: Although not clearly defined, Carolyn appears to have some sort of responsibility at Ford for knowing what's going on in the asbestos business. She attends many of the same meetings that H. B. Rhodes attends, and very obviously likes to meet with H. B. Rhodes to find out what's going on in the industry. She did mention that Ford is in the process of drawing up a policy on the use of asbestos, and asked if we wanted to see it. Needless to say the answer was yes. She said that since it has not been approved by anyone in corporate management we could not have a copy, but she'd be happy to show it to us. Briefly stated, the policy states that Ford will continue to accept materials containing asbestos and will keep their ears to the ground for any new developments from the government. Also there is a statement in there regarding the fact that it is in Ford's best interests to check with their suppliers to make sure that the suppliers are all in compliance with the OSHA regulations. There is no move to eliminate or even suggest eliminating asbestos from friction materials. The only bad thing here is that this document applies only to friction products. However, the tone of the statement indicates that Ford is in no panic to get rid of asbestos. At this point it may not be wise for us to push the idea of including sealants in this statement, until we find out whether or not it gets approved.

We informed Carolyn of the fact that the vinyl plant in Mt. Clemens, MI, was preparing a formulation containing asbestos, specifically RG-144. We related to her the fact that Bob Cliffel, the formulating chemist at Mt. Clemens, was having some difficulty with Ford's industrial hygiene. Although a little surprised at this I wouldn't say that she was panicked.

FOLLOW UP ACTION REQUIRED: (OVER)

JK - Not really a heck of a lot we can do here, we ought to check in with Carolyn every few weeks and see if the friction products policy got approved, and maybe try to take it then a step further to include sealants. Right now the status of them using RG-144 at Mt. Clemens, is a little cloudy. Bob Cliffel seems to be inclined to let well enough alone and not stir up any dust. Bob's comment that mentioning it to Carolyn was probably a good idea, but at this point he doesn't want to push it. (OVER)

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