



August 11, 1943

MEMORANDUM

To: Mr. A. S. Tatistcheff
From: J. J. Chetwynd
Subject: Asbestos - Substitution of Other Rhodesian Chrysotile Grades for Grades C & G

This will acknowledge receipt of your memorandum of August 4th on the above subject.

In the course of the last few days we have received further information from London on this subject. The Ministry attach a very real importance to the running of these tests and obviously consider that adequate reports of such tests should be made available before contracts for 1944 can be written. The background to the inclusion in the Memorandum of Understanding of para 1 (h) is, we have now heard, that in the course of negotiations question of the acceptability in the U. S. A. of certain newly developed grades of Rhodesian Chrysotile arose. Whilst the American technical representative, Mr. Jacobsen, agreed that there had been small tests with these new grades in America which had proved completely successful, I repeat successful, your representatives refused to accept them as completely interchangeable with other grades because full manufacturing tests had not been run. The producers were most reluctant to vary their practice, which was that they should ship C & G, VRA, or HVL at their own option and this condition had been accepted by the manufacturers in the U. K. Added to this is the shipping question and the desirability that full use should be made of available shipping space, and therefore when a ship should get into port whichever fibre was then available in port should be shipped.

Due to the attitude adopted by your Mission the Ministry used its best efforts and finally persuaded the companies to waive their right which they insisted on in U. K. purchases to ship at their own option either C & G, VRA, or HVL for 1943 to permit the U. S. A. to run manufacturing tests as arranged in para 1 (h).

It would appear from the foregoing that the tests referred to by Mr. Wiles, which are taking place before the Mission went to London were looked upon by your representatives as being inconclusive. Therefore I ask you now

- (1) To arrange for full manufacturing tests to be undertaken at once;
- (2) To obtain detailed reports of the results of the tests of VRA 3 and 4 fibre by Johns-Manville referred to in the third para of your memorandum under reference.
- (3) To reply to the fourth para of my memorandum of July 12th in which I asked you (a) the date of the letter to the War Production Board which you quoted on page 2 of your memorandum of July 2nd; and (b) by whom this letter was addressed to the War Production Board.

I am happy to observe from the fourth para of your memorandum of August 4th that the Cork, Asbestos and Fibrous Glass Division of the War Production Board are still prepared to bring pressure to bear on the industries to run tests and I sincerely trust that they will do so immediately in view of the information contained in the foregoing paragraphs. In view of the information provided by the Ministry referring to the small tests, reported by you, carried out before the Mission went to London, and reported by Mr. Jacobson to have been successful, I think it is unnecessary for the Ministry to ask Turner and Newall for the information suggested in your closing paragraph. Furthermore, as it is clearly stated in the Memorandum of Understanding that the U. S. Government will in 1943 use its best efforts to induce firms to run full manufacturing tests, I would suggest that the onus is on the U. S. Government to make available the results of such tests and it would be improper for the Ministry of Supply to obtain this information from commercial sources.

Your early attention to this matter would be greatly appreciated. More than a month has passed since the matter was discussed at the Operating Committee.

cc: Mr. R. A. Gordon (at Mr. McDougall's request)

J.J.C
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