

REB

M E M O R A N D U M



January 31, 1983

To: Grant E. Spangler, MRD
From: E. C. Irby, M.D.
Re: Elimination of Asbestos Exposure

As we discussed recently, I have fairly strong convictions that the legal profession will fill our courtrooms in the next few years with largely unjustified claims of asbestosis of their clients. The company has made tremendous strides in elimination of asbestos in the plants, and we discussed your progress in your lab. As of January 1984, I would like to draw a line in time, or set a target date after which there shall be no respiratory exposure to asbestos in the company. In order to implement the final stages of the asbestos detection and substitution, I would like to request permission for our industrial hygienist, Ron Benton, and Central Engineering's representative, Bob Burton, to visit MRD. With the help of your people, they would check for asbestos content. I would hope that they would work out possible controls and substitutes and make a presentation of their work to you as soon as completed.

As we discussed earlier, this does not mean ripping out all of the asbestos insultation. It does mean, however, that when those areas containing asbestos are worked on or replaced, that the work will be done under wet conditions, taking the necessary precautions with respirators and disposable clothing so that no one is exposed to respiratory asbestos. Additionally, we need a policy stating that no one in your facility would purchase any asbestos-containing product without the special approval of Bert Abrams or Ron Benton or some designated person.

Ron Benton and Bob Burton have scheduled a trip to Alloys in the near future. I would hope on their return that they could visit your facility.

Sincerely,

E. Claiborne Irby, M.D.
Corporate Medical Director

ECI/aw

cc: John R. McGill
Ronald E. Benton

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