PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT FOS-268

FOSECO, INC.

INTER-COMPANY AND INTER-DEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

TO: T. R. Bernardi

FROM: J. T. Vrh

DATE: April 15, 1974

SUBJECT: Non-Asbestos Trials

On three consectutive days, April 2nd, 3rd. and 4th, 1974, A. Santighian, with the aid of Chicago personnel, attempted to produce non-asbestos one piece hot tops with the following results.

APRIL 2, 1974

A. Initial production attempts using Proflex EP-5492 were tried in the 538M-3434-1P Hot Top.

Results:
Tops would not stay on tool, but would either remain in the form tank or drop off when piece would be entering receiver for blow off.

Conclusion:
Material too fine would not adhere to tool.

B. Production of 390-2525-1P Tops, using Proflex EP-5492.

Results:
1. Tops lacked green strength, fell apart during movement of dryers to oven.
2. Poor forming characteristics. Thick at small end then in flange.

Conclusions:
1. Suggested to A. Santighian after examining green material that insufficient surfactant used (RM-X1281), thus low green strength as material appeared to be segregated.
2. In an attempt to improve forming, form pressure increased to 80 PSI. This action taken to see if material could be raised to the flange area to prevent thick and thin tops. No success, material dewaters to quickly. No matting properties at screen surface.

APRIL 3rd and 4th, 1974

A. Production trails using Proflex EP-5492 on 390-2525-1P Hot Tops.

Results:
1. With the addition of additional RM-X1281, tops produced improve in green strength. However, separation of material could still be seen as

corner cracking was quite evident. This latter problem, however, could be a carry over from the continuing problem of tops forming thicker at the small end than at the flange. This statement is made for the following reason. If tops are not uniformly produced, cracking can occur in the corner radius due to a gap between receiver and the formed piece during blow off.

Conclusion:
Material dewaters to quickly, thus improper forming.

In a final statement, the trials did not produce satisfactory product, as Proflex EP-5492 does not appear to have sufficient green strength nor forming characteristics needed to produce quality product.

Also feel that the material in general contains excessive fines, which in my estimation, will produce product with low green strength.

JTV/fas
cc:
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