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cc: A. Azar
R. J. Hubiak

A 186

HASKELL LABORATORY FOR TOXICOLOGY
AND INDUSTRIAL MEDICINE

April 10, 1972

TO: J. A. Zapp/C. F. Reinhardt

FROM: J. F. Morgan JFM

RE: B. N. Epstein, Plastics Department, Experimental Station 323/210

ASBESTOS

Epstein proposes to add asbestos to plactic material for reinforcement so that various machine parts like gears may be fabricated.

A basic question, before he obtains authorization to advance his project, concerns the health problem.

1) Can asbestos be obtained from a supplier, unloaded, mixed, blended, treated with a surface agent, dried, added to a plastic material, and extruded without endangering the health of employees in experimental or production facilities;

2) Can asbestos-reinforced plastic material be offered to customers for fabrication of shapes and parts without endangering the health of customers' employees or incurring liability for future injury;

3) Is there a likelihood that this kind of a use of asbestos faces imminent legal bans such as occurred in Philadelphia and New York City recently with respect to spraying insulation on steel building members;

4) Epstein wants to know what kinds of dust control measures would be necessary to start experimental and production work along the lines mentioned in (1) above. Are they economically feasible?

In order to work with Ben Epstein on these matters either R. J. Hubiak or I would have to devote some time to a written reply to (4) above and follow this with a meeting with him to discuss other aspects of the problems. His need is urgent.

JFM/neh