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Johns-Manville Corporation
Greenwood Plaza
Denver, Colorado 80217

Health, Safety & Environment Department

000397

March 18, 1975

S. F. McCullagh, M.D.
James Hardie & Coy PTY. Ltd.
Research & Engineering Centre
Box 219, P.O. Granville
New South Wales, Australia 2142

Dear Dr. McCullagh:

Dr. George Wright has asked me to reply to your letter of March 11, 1975, relative to our OSHA and MESA standards.

The Office of Health Standards in OSHA presently is reviewing and probably rewriting portions of the present asbestos standard that was promulgated on June 7, 1972. We are hopeful that they will not lower the future 2 fibers per milliliter TWA maximum allowable concentration. We anticipate that if this allowable level is retained, its implementation date will be moved forward to between July 1, 1975 and January 1, 1976.

Our Mine Enforcement and Safety Administration chose to adopt airborne fiber levels from the OSHA emergency standard of December 12, 1971. There is little difference between the two standards except that the MESA standard, as your letter indicates, specifies the maximum time period and maximum number of occurrences for exposures up to the ceiling concentration of 10 fibers per cc, and does not propose a 2 fiber per milliliter level in the future.

MESA has not indicated whether or not they plan later to adopt the lower fiber level. In my opinion, they will. If they don't, there will be two standards.

Asbestos mines and mills are under the jurisdiction of MESA while asbestos using manufacturing plants are under the jurisdiction of OSHA.

If you require additional information, please contact me directly in Denver.

Very truly yours,

Edmund M. Fenner

Edmund M. Fenner, Director
Technical Affairs

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