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interoffice correspondence

to R. L. Keeler, Marketing
cc: G. T. Sowinski, Marketing
D. Bieri, Research
J. K. Novind, Research
D. J. Petersen, Research
W. S. Eikenberry, Production
J. E. Sliwinski, Adv. Dist.
W. H. Newton, Marketing

date January 20, 1978
from J. Volk, Research
subject Label Form #F6017 Asbestos
Cement Caution Notice

PLAINTIFF'S
EXHIBIT
NG73

Reference is made to W. H. Newton's letter of December 29, 1977, to J. E. Sliwinski regarding re-printing of the caution label for asbestos cement products.

The original and revised caution label was developed with the best information possible with apparent consideration of Marketing impact. I believe that the caution label, as currently written, is not sufficiently accurate or complete enough to assist the user. In other words, we tried to cover the federal regulations in a few lines and this is misleading to the customer user. Example: The asbestos fibers are not permanently bonded in portland cement (they can be released).

I recommend that the caution label be revised to delete all the wording except the OSHA caution notice:

CAUTION
CONTAINS ASBESTOS FIBERS
AVOID CREATING DUST
BREATHING ASBESTOS DUST MAY CAUSE
SERIOUS BODILY HARM

NOTE: I talked to Johns-Manville and they use this same caution label, printed on 8" x 10" sheets and one sheet is inserted between every flat sheet; they find this necessary since often times the flat sheet stacks are split. I think this is a good procedure.

J.M. also makes available to all their customers a complete package on Recommended Work Practices - shop and field fabrication of asbestos sheet products. You will note that this carries many helpful hints and complete OSHA regulations. I believe this is a good pattern since too little information in the users hand could be harmful and by providing a complete package, the manufacturers could not be accused of failing to provide sufficient information to safeguard the health and safety of the user.

I would suggest that G.B.B.P. follow a program similar to that of J.M.

A copy of the J.M. literature is enclosed for your use. Since this is the only copy, I request its' return for our files.

JV/dms
Enclosure

J. Volk

GOLD BOND BUILDING PRODUCTS
DIVISION OF NATIONAL GYPSUM COMPANY

NOTICE

The asbestos fibers in this cement-asbestos product are embedded and permanently bonded in Portland Cement and will not create dust during normal handling and usage.

In fabricating or installing operations avoid creating dust by scoring and snapping whenever possible. Certain methods of cutting, drilling or sanding may produce dust. It is then recommended either that equipment with approved dust collectors be used or that operators and nearby personnel be provided with a NIOSH or MESA approved respirator.

In accordance with recent government regulations the following notice is provided:

CAUTION

CONTAINS ASBESTOS FIBERS

AVOID CREATING DUST

BREATHING ASBESTOS DUST MAY CAUSE

SERIOUS BODILY HARM