FILE NAME: Flintkote (FLK)

DATE: 1972

DOC#: FLK010

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Letters RE Physical Examinations, Specific Employee Exposure & Labels

P. O. BOX 2218 TERMINAL ANNEX • LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90054 • 583-3011

November 17, 1972

Dr. Carl E. Nemethi, M. D.
5592 South Santa Fe Avenue
Los Angeles, California 90058

Dear Dr. Nemethi:

We have been advised by our New York Office that we can proceed with our physical examinations for those employees presently engaged in occupations exposed to Airborne Concentrations of Asbestos Fibers. At the present time we have approximately fifty (50) employees that will have to be examined prior to January 31, 1973.

We were also advised that prior to the examinations a questionnaire would have to be filled out by our Plant Doctor as to each employees symptoms of past respiratory diseases. Our first draft of the Questionnaire may be too long and may have to be revised.

The attached form will have to be reviewed and we would appreciate any comments you might have. We would like to get together with you in the next few days to review this form.

Sincerely yours,

RCB:bh

Attach.

Richard C. Berns,
Director of Safety
and Fire Prevention

cc: W. Harvey
A. C. Costa
S Weiss - White Plains

December 19, 1972

PREBLES ROCKWOOD

Dr. Nemethi R. C. Berns

Prebles Rockwood, age 46 has been employed in the Emulsion Plant since April 8, 1969 as a laborer. His principle duties consists of clearing up around the Department. At times this involves vacuum cleaning around the various mixers where asbestos is used. The Plant Manager states that at least twice that he can remember Mr. Rockwood had operated the Fibrated Emulsion Mixer. As far as can be determined Mr. Rockwood has always worn a respirator when working in the areas where Asbestos Dusts are prevalent, therefore Mr. John Kent, the Department Manager, considers this employee to have had a minimal exposure to Asbestos Dusts since his employment.

RCB:bh

cc: Mr. Wilson Harvey

Copy
A.C. 12-2-76

DATE 7-20-72

SUBJECT Product Labeling

TO Mr. W. Harvey FROM R.C. Berns

I made a check of the products manufactured by both Emulsion and Flooring departments and find we would have no problem with the new labeling standard.

The standards state no labeling is required where asbestos fibers have been modified by a bonding agent, coating or other material so that during any reasonable foreseeable use, handling, storage, disposal, processing or transportation, no airborne concentrations of asbestos fibers in excess of the exposure limits.

I also discussed this with L. Hauger at the Vernon Health Department and he agrees we have no problem.

All sacks or bags of asbestos that are delivered, stored and used in our processes should be labeled. At the present time all paper sacks of asbestos shipped in from Thetford Mines Union Carbide and John Manville are all identified with a stamped label indicating that breathing can be injurious to to the health. The wording is slightly different than the standards. The Abestos Information Association of North America of which Flintkote is a member is applying for a temporary industry-wide-variance in order to have existing supplies of bags ect, which contain a little different wording used up first.

Today a shipment of polyethylane sacks of asbestos from J. M. arrivered for the Flooring plant. There were no labels at all. The department was advised and we will receive something in our files confirming the fact that the supplier has been informed.

RCB

Sample

FLINTKOTE®

SAFETY

June 20, 1972

TO: Mr. W. Harvey FROM: R. C. Berns

SUBJECT: MEDICAL EXAMINATION - ASBESTOS

I discussed the new OSHA asbestos standards effective July 7, 1972, with Dr. Nemethi today, particularly the one section calling for a more thorough physical examination for those employees required to wear respirators.

The new law states that all of our employees that are now exposed to asbestos must have a thorough examination prior to January 1, 1973. All new employees that would be exposed to asbestos would need this thorough physical examination at the time of employment or within thirty days.

The new medical examination calls for a 14" x 17" chest roentgenogram (X-Ray), past history of respiratory disease, and pulmonary function tests to include forced vital capacity.

Dr. Nemethi wants us to provide the number of employees that would be involved. This includes the proposed number of new hires. This is being done. Dr. Nemethi will provide the equipment to get the job done. Dorothy Wisdom, R.N., will have some literature for you to look at by next Monday.

The Emulsion and Flooring plants are providing me with the necessary information for Dr. Nemethi.

R. C. Berns

RCB:ps
cc: Mr. J. Kent
Mr. A. C. Costa
Mr. E. Fletcher

THIS COPY FOR

FLINTKOTE®

P. O. BOX 2218 TERMINAL ANNEX • LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90051 • 583-3011

June 28, 1972

Dr. Carl E. Nemethi, M.D.
5592 South Santa Fe Avenue
Los Angeles, California 90058

Dear Dr. Nemethi:

In accordance with our recent discussion on the subject of medical examinations, our careful survey would indicate that there would be a total of 31 employees from the Flooring Division and 6 from the Emulsion Plant. These employees work full time in an asbestos atmosphere or are exposed to airborne asbestos when called upon to do certain jobs. In all cases these employees do wear respirators.

It is understood that the Clinic will now be ready to give the medical examination, including chest X-ray and pulmonary function tests, starting July 15, 1972. Since we have until January of 1973, we will most likely arrange schedules to have all processed before the end of the year.

As far as new employees who would be assigned to work in the asbestos environment, we will so note this on their physical examination records, indicating that the X-ray and pulmonary function tests are needed.

Medical records on these employees should be forwarded to this office. The law says that we must keep these on file for 20 years.

We appreciate very much the opportunity to arrange this new and difficult program with you.

Very Truly Yours,

Richard C. Borns,
Director of Safety
and Fire Prevention

RCB:ps
cc: Mr. W. Harvey
Mr. A. C. Costa
Mr. E. Fletcher
Mr. J. Kent