FILE NAME: Union Carbide (UC)

DATE: 1966 Feb 8

DOC#: UC199

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Internal Letter RE Research on Asbestos

Union Carbide Corporation
Plastics and Metals Division
270 Park Avenue
New York, New York 10017

RECEIVED
FEB 8 1966
T F FRANGOS

February 8, 1966

Mr. Peter R. Cheston
Union Carbide Limited
8 Grafton Street
London, England

Asbestos...
Toxicology

Dear Peter:

Your suggestion that we consider including "UK paper industry" comments in our General Sales meeting is well taken -- and I plan to review the notes with Ian Sayers.

Apropos of your letter on toxicological studies relative to asbestos -- we have reviewed the two excerpts you sent us with Dr. Carl Dernehl. He counsels that the papers "do not by any means present incontrovertible proof nor do they profess to do so." Further: "Our position should remain that in United States experience there has been no increased incidence of lung cancer when the threshold limit has not been exceeded."

From past publications, we have also noted the references to organic contaminants, with the thought that proof of absence of polycyclic aromatics in Union Carbide asbestos might be useful, we are planning some extraction studies and analyses for 3,4-benzo(a)pyrene by techniques employed at South Charleston. We will let you know the results, probably in an appropriately written statement by Dr. Dernehl.

The matter of soft papers, facial and other tissues, has been a recurring subject with us. Primarily this is a question of skin sensitization. While the over-all statements by our Industrial Medicine and Toxicology people should suffice -- we have given thought to "patch tests, which, incidentally, cost appreciably to run. It would be meaningless to conduct such tests with paper containing UCC asbestos, since the other components of the furnish bear on the results. Hence we are considering patch tests using straight asbestos -- which, of course, would absolve only our product. The other components (including, as you know, a variety of organic compounds) of specific furnishes would have to be considered by the paper company involved. We shall let you know our plans.

Very truly yours,

A.E.Pufahl:uk

cc: H. F. Reichard
T. F. Frangos
E. F. Gray (Australia)