FILE NAME: Foseco (FOS)

DATE: 1964 Jan-Apr

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FOSECO, INC.

INTEROFFICE CORRESPONDENCE FILE _____

TO F. Eastwood DATE January 23, 1964 (Dict. Jan. 22)

FROM F. S. Bilton SUBJECT RM 265

Paul Norman told me last week that England have done Laboratory work with White Asbestos and, like ourselves, have found that it seems to perform as well as the Blue (Crocidolite) Asbestos we are now buying. Like ourselves, they have never used this material in products which have gone into the field.

Paul believes that the only reason Blue Asbestos is used is because International happened to light upon it in the initial stages. Paul points out that although the Blue Asbestos has a slightly higher tensile strength than the White (Chrysotile), this tensile strength is probably never put to use in the function it performs in Profax.

FSB
I am not yet convinced of this!

1/24

FSB:rk
cc: RWR
EJJ

FSB

JAN 24 1964

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CONTRACTORS TO THE GOVERNMENTS OF [illegible]

THE CAPE ASBESTOS COMPANY LIMITED

HEAD OFFICE 114 & 116 PARK STREET · LONDON W1

TELEPHONE GROSVENOR 6022

TELEGRAMS INCORRUPT LONDON
TELEX No 23788

WORKS
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APR -7 1964

Mr. R.E. Cryor,
North American Asbestos Corporation,
Board of Trade Building,
Chicago 4.

3rd April, 1964

Dear Bob,

Fosseco Inc. - Health Problems
Connected with Blue Asbestos

I am sorry to hear that you are being troubled by questions relating to health problems and Blue Asbestos. We have already had an enquiry from Fosseco here and I gather from our Sales people that they (Fosseco) will probably use Amosite anyway in view of the lower price of this fibre.

On the health side, the situation is by no means straight forward and is confused by a mass of semi-scientific and speculative theory. The facts may be summarised as follows :

i. The medical world now appears to accept that exposure to asbestos increases the risk of lung cancer. There is no evidence to indicate that there is a greater risk from any particular form of asbestos.

ii. During recent years a Dr. J.C. Wagner claims to have found approximately 100 cases of a distinctly different

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Mr. R.E. Cryor 3rd April, 1964

kind of lung cancer called 'mesothelioma' among people in the North West Cape in South Africa, most of whom have some history of exposure to Blue Asbestos.

iii. Dr. Wagner has been working in Britain for the last twelve months and he claims to have uncovered, from the records (going back over a considerable number of years), a comparable number of cases of mesothelioma here.

iv. Cases of mesothelioma have also been claimed in the United States and Canada associated with exposure to Chrysotile Asbestos.

v. So far as I am aware no cases of mesothelioma have been definitely associated with Amosite.

These then are the facts and I should add that I have heard absolutely nothing of skin cancer in this connection. The problem is an extension of the old asbestosis hazard and, although we are concerned with the extension into these more abstruse diseases and anxious to establish the facts, there is clearly no reason for alarm when one considers the very small incidence of this affliction in relation to the enormous number of people who handle asbestos of all kinds. It is accepted that precautions must be taken and I suggest that, so far as Fosseco are concerned, all that it is necessary to advise them is that precautions should be taken to prevent inhalation of asbestos dust by their operatives.

I hope that this answers your question. If you would like any more information, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Yours sincerely,

RG/MG