

FOR ATTENTION OF MR. S.A.F. DAKIN & MISS A.M. TAYLOR

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AT CONTROL, BRIDGE STREET, S.E.1,
7th JANUARY, 1944

Present:- C.J. Brockbank Esq. - Asbestos Control (in the Chair)
 H.W. Ashley Brereton Esq. - M.A.P.
 J. Moffat Esq. - M.A.P.
 - Coventry Esq. - Ministry of Works
 Sir Alan Greene - M.O.S. S.S.4.
 R.A. Smiles Esq. - Ministry of Production
 S.A.F. Dakin Esq. - M.O.S. R.M.D.
 Miss A.M. Taylor - M.O.S. R.M.D.
 L. Espar Esq. - Asbestos Control
 A.V. Cooch Esq. - Asbestos Control
 R.G. Forrester Esq. - Asbestos Control

Apologies A.B. Mirmie Esq. - Admiralty

Mr. Brockbank opened the meeting by giving a brief outline of the salient points to be discussed, which were that, although we did not anticipate any supply problem in any grade of Asbestos Fibre, except mesoite where U.S. demands are exceptionally high relative to total production, there was always the possibility of losses at sea and changes in production affecting this picture. We therefore particularly wished to have adequate warning of future changes in demands for products embodying Asbestos, whether increased or decreased. This was particularly necessary for any goods involving Spinning Grade Fibre where it was desirable that no new load be put upon the industry without consultation with the Control as to availability of Raw Asbestos.

Mr. Coventry on behalf of Ministry of Works, stated that in 1944 they would require at least as much Raw Asbestos as they had had in 1943, possibly more in the event of a recurrence of air raids on a large scale. The type of Asbestos used in the Asbestos Cement industry, is Shingles which is in plentiful supply and, from the production point of view therefore, there would be no difficulty in supplying, the main problem being to secure the available shipping space. In reply to a question put by Mr. Brockbank, Mr. Coventry stated that the output of the Asbestos Cement industry could be greatly increased but the great difficulty was the shortage of labour. Mr. Dakin raised the question of post-war requirements but Mr. Coventry said he was only concerned with the present requirements and post-war planning was in the hands of another department. He did not think there would be any great increase in demands for asbestos at the cessation of hostilities since, while there would be enormous demands for the building of hutsments for rehabilitation in the Continent and in this country, there would also be a corresponding reduction in demand for the factories engaged on war work and for military purposes, and the one would counterbalance the other.

To sum up, Mr. Brockbank said that, so far as the Ministry of Works was concerned, we could assure them that we could safely meet all their demands for 1944.

Ministry of Aircraft Production Demands from this Ministry would be for Parachute Hood Flares, Brake Linings and Clutch Linings and also an amount of Blue Asbestos for Accumulators. Mr. Brereton stated that, in the case of Parachute Hood Flares, the quantity required would possibly reach phenomenal heights. The present suppliers of the cloth for these flares were Turner Bros. Asbestos Co. and British Belting & Asbestos Co. The cloth was known as EP 417 and contained a percentage of cotton. At the current rate of demand, M.A.P. would require these hoods 470 tons for 1944, but Mr. Moffat stressed that this might be jumped up at a moment's notice and he could only state that he would get in touch with the Control immediately any new demand arose. In reply to a question put by Mr. Brockbank, Mr. Forrester stated that, should there be a 50% increase in the demand for Asbestos for Parachute Flares, we should be able to meet this increase without difficulty as regards the raw material. Mr. Moffat stated that while at the moment there was nothing definite, he would like to give warning that we might be called upon to meet demands made by the U.S.A.A.P. over here. He thought it would be as well to keep this in mind. In this connection, however, it was pointed out by the Control that this would be a "new factor" in the 1944 allocation scheme and in this case we would ask for a re-allocation from C.R.M.B.

Mr. Brockbank summed up by saying that we could safely cope with present demands of M.A.P. and we had also allowed a margin for some degree of increase.

P.T.O.

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COVENTRY - MR. T. G. COVENTRY - MR. T. G. COVENTRY - MR. T. G. COVENTRY

2.8.41 Sir Alan Greene said that generally speaking, demands would not vary much from those of 1943 and he produced a statement showing the various requirements. Mr. Cooch raised the question of Canadian Grade 7D Asbestos which was being used for sealing and water-proofing vehicles and the great demands which were being made for this material without adequate warning beforehand. While there is no actual shortage of this grade, the question of obtaining shipping space at short notice was rather difficult. Sir Alan asked Mr. Cooch if he would write to him about this and he would do his best to provide definite figures.

Mr. Smailes of Ministry of Production had no points to discuss

In conclusion, it was generally agreed that the Control could cover all demands for Asbestos, although there was a likelihood that Amosite would not be in such plentiful supply, but bearing in mind the great difficulty in obtaining shipping space, we should like to be forewarned of any great increases that were likely to be made.

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12th January, 1943

Abr. Sivas, Graphite & Asbestos Control
Palace Chambers, Bridge Street,
Westminster, S.W.1.