

Georgia-Pacific

intracompany memo

to ALL GYPSUM SALES MANAGERS
from O. E. Burch
subject JOINT CEMENT PRODUCTS



Handwritten signatures and initials:
Hane, Ed, Sterling
location
location
date

location
location
date

Portland

May 24, 1974

PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT

GP-1603

CC Messrs:

G. E. Wilson	Portland
S. S. Dennison	Portland
G. F. Baitinger	Portland
D. C. Corkill	Portland
C. W. Lehnert	Tigard Lab
James Hurd	Portland
Matt Fink	Tigard Lab
T. W. Richards	Tigard Lab
E. B. Hollingsworth	Wilm Del Gyp
M. A. Palmowski	Chgo Jt Sys Plant
Bob Favero	Marietta Plant
H. W. Scharf	Milford Plant
J. D. Rauch	Akron Plant
K. W. Brown	Acme Plant

THIS COPY FOR

There may be questions from our Branches and customers concerning the caution label we are currently placing on many of our joint system products. The label reads: -

CAUTION

Contains Asbestos Fibers

Avoid Creating Dust

Breathing asbestos dust may cause serious bodily harm

Use approved respirator when sanding

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) requires that all products containing asbestos fiber be identified in this manner. The concern is the breathing of air which contains asbestos fiber. The degree of hazard is dependent upon the concentration of fiber in the air and the duration of exposure. The health problems associated with exposure to asbestos fiber have occurred in industries where workers have been exposed to high concentrations of the fiber over a period of years.

All joint compound manufacturers use asbestos fiber as an essential ingredient in their products. These compounds, however, contain relatively small amounts of asbestos (2-8%). We are not aware of any health problems in our industry but we are nevertheless required to comply with the OSHA requirements. The standards imposed on our plants are very stringent. There are severe limitations on allowable concentrations of asbestos in the air; strict procedures for handling the asbestos; a mandatory program for wearing protective devices (respirators); periodic medical examinations; the labeling already described and many other very restrictive measures.

All Gypsum Sales Managers
Page 2
May 13, 1974

It is recognized that there is some exposure to asbestos fiber during the mixing of the dry powder products and in the sanding of the joints. It is not presently known whether the concentrations of asbestos fiber at these times is in the hazardous range established by OSHA. However, we do know that the dust level in the mixing or sanding of joint compounds is sufficiently high that respirators should be worn. Once joint compounds are wetted or mixed, the fiber is not subject to becoming airborne. Ready mix, for example, presents no hazard for the user, other than in the sanding operation. Respirators should be worn while sanding.

We regard the development of non-asbestos products as a necessary step to continued success of our joint system program, and these are the steps we have already taken in furtherance of this goal: -

1. We have eliminated asbestos from all of our texture products.
2. We are market testing, in limited markets, a dry asbestos free powder product.
3. We are working on a means to eliminate asbestos from our ready mix products.

The development of these new products will require a substantial amount of field testing and we will be seeking your assistance in this.

This is not to be taken lightly, but at the same time we do not want to unnecessarily alarm you or our customers. The purpose of this memo is to make you aware of what we are doing and why we are doing it, so that you will be equipped to handle the questions that are bound to arise.

OEB/mf

9
O.E.B.

SGP 0007500