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DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: RTV Letter to Goodyear Tire in Response to Request for Info about Tremolite Content in WESTAL

To
Subject Brenda Williams v Johnson & Johnson et al, LASC Case No 03-23776

From: Marlena Ayling

Thursday April 17, 2008 10:58 AM Page 2 of 2

R. T. VANDERBILT COMPANY, INC
230 PARK AVENUE
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10017

June 11, 1973

KODAK SAFETY
SERIAL NEW YORK

Mr. J. C. Mullett
The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company
Akron, Ohio 44316

Dear Mr. Mullett:

This is in response to your request for information about the tremolite content of WESTAL in reference to the Occupational Safety and Health Act standard for exposure to asbestos dust. OSHA is a federal law regulating working conditions within the workplace.

It is a known fact that most talcs contain tremolite. However, the small proportion of tremolite in WESTAL exists in the form of nodules, rods, and plates. To the best of our knowledge, there are no asbestos fibers according to the definition of a fiber as a soft, threadlike object that has a length usually many hundred or thousand times greater than its width and that possesses considerable tensile strength.

The Occupational Safety and Health Act standard dealing with asbestos dust lumps tremolite into the category of asbestos. However, we are in the process of gathering evidence to refute the governmental contention that tremolite per se is asbestos and therefore governed by asbestos regulations. When we have accumulated sufficient data, we plan to petition for an amendment to the standard, so that tremolite may be classified with other mineral dusts.

We would like to call your attention to the fact that the asbestos dust standard of the Occupational Safety and Health Act does not prohibit the use of tremolite-containing dirt or any other dust-producing material. It states that adequate dust control measures must be taken no matter what dusts are involved.

I trust this information will be helpful to you. If we can be of any further service, please let us know.

Very truly yours,

Betty Tarnoff
Mrs. Betty Tarnoff
Sales Service Department

BT:vs

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