FILE NAME: Johns-Manville (JMA)

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Research and Engineering Center
April 28, 1970

E. M. Ball - GHQ
C. L. Sheckler - GHQ

MANVILLE PRODUCT PROPOSAL 630-85
BLUE ASBESTOS ROPE
STYLE NO. 4194

Enclosed are copies of J. A. Krochta's letters of February 5 and March 11, 1970, and N. D. Brown's letter of February 18, 1970, for your background information.

Johns-Manville has made and marketed the subject product for many years. Now, in order to eliminate its manufacture, it is proposed to purchase it from another manufacturer and market it.

The question has been raised as to whether, and if so how, it should be labelled as a hazardous product.

In order to help determine the hazard involved in its handling and application, a test was made to determine the amount of airborne asbestos dust generated, in a simulated use.

An assembled Transite coupling and piece of Transite pipe were caulked with two layers of Blue Asbestos Rope. After the caulking was completed, the pipe and coupling were disassembled and the process repeated using new rope, a total of six times, in a period of 49 minutes.

During the entire time, the operator wore a Membrane Filter Personal Air Sampler, the same as used in our Industrial Hygiene Asbestos Dust Survey Sampling.

The fiber count was 1.7 F/cc.

On the basis of this test we think the product should be labelled. Although the exposure is not severe, the fact that it is crocidolite, makes extra caution appropriate.

We suggest a paraphase of our present Caution Label on bagged asbestos fiber as follows:

"This product contains asbestos fiber. Persons exposed to dust from this material should use adequate protective devices as inhalation of this material over long periods may be harmful."

We would appreciate your comments regarding the suitability of the above phrasing, or your alternative proposed wording.

The proposed wording deals only with the airborne hazard. We have no knowledge of the application or possible problems associated with its use in production of foods or medicines, as alluded to in N. D. Brown's letter.

G. L. Swallow

ps

cc: H. L. Rucker - REC
J. J. Palumbo - REC
N. D. Brown - DHQ
J. A. Krochta - Manville
File:
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