

GRACE

Zonolite
Construction Products Division

W.R. Grace & Co.
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Cambridge, Mass. 02140

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DRAFT



Mr. John T. Collins, Architect
Mr. Leonard A. Collins, Architect
P. O. Box 112
Biloxi, MS 39533

Re: ZONOLITE® Acoustical Plaster Products

Dear Mr. Collins:

This is in response to your recent inquiry to our Mr. Steve Barter concerning Zonolite Acoustical Plaster Products.

Please be advised that these products were a blend of lightweight vermiculite aggregate, air entraining agents, preservatives and corrosion inhibitors in a gypsum or bentonite binder. As manufactured, asbestos fibers were added to the products. The asbestos content was approximately 12-18% by weight. Sales of the products were discontinued in 1972.

When evaluating a future course of action with regard to materials such as these, consideration needs to be made of the following parameters:

1. The age of the asbestos-bearing materials.
2. The physical condition of the in-place material.
3. The physical disturbance which has occurred or may occur due to accessibility.

Because of the "setting" characteristics of these plaster materials, we believe that the asbestos fibers are encapsulated in the matrix. This conclusion assumes that the material is undisturbed and has suffered no in-place damage.

If the material has been subjected to external forces which have left the surface sifting and flaking, consideration should be given to either (1) removal of the material, or (2) overspraying and sealing of the surface. Enclosed is a list of sealers tested to meet EPA regulations.

Of course, the overall concern is possible exposure to respirable asbestos fibers which may be released from the material. Only on-site, breathing zone determinations will determine the exposure concentrations. Air monitoring should be done in accordance with OSHA regulations.

Towards understanding this situation further, we have enclosed a copy of the EPS guidance document "Asbestos Containing Materials in School Buildings". This document provides much of the background on the asbestos problem in this country along with general guidelines on handling such problems.

Please review the enclosed and get back to me if you have any questions or require clarification on a particular point.

Sincerely,

Robert T. Frohlich
Marketing Manager
Roof Deck Products

RTF/jdg
Enclosure