FROM ROBERT P. CARTER
HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT
PITTSBURGH OFFICE, 7AB

&

M. J. CAPRIO
PURCHASING DEPARTMENT
PITTSBURGH, 19AB

TO

B. D. Dinman
Pittsburgh 7AB

PLAINTIFF'S
EXHIBIT
AL-1379

30Mar76

RE: ALTERNATES FOR ASBESTOS AND ASBESTOS-CONTAINING MATERIALS

In October, 1975, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) published a proposed revision to its standard for worker exposure to asbestos which will drastically reduce the permissible time-weighted average (TWA) permissible fiber count and also reduce the permissible ceiling or short term exposure for 15-minute periods. In the Industrial Hygiene Newsletter dated 19Nov75, which went to all works Industrial Hygienists, the possible impact of the proposed changes was reviewed on a paragraph-by-paragraph basis.

As stated near the end of that Newsletter, this proposed revision, which may not become final until late 1976, makes it highly desirable for us to replace the use of asbestos and asbestos-containing materials with non-asbestos material in every situation where the use of asbestos can result in worker exposure to airborne fiber. This, of course, has to be based upon functional suitability of the non-asbestos containing replacement material. This replacement, however, should not be based on strict cost equivalence since the costs of medical surveillance, air sampling and analysis, and training as required by the proposed standard are very considerable.

In order to facilitate this conversion, Mr. A. E. Kean of the Pittsburgh Purchasing Department has agreed that Mr. M. J. Caprio of his group will serve as a clearing house, or contact person, for plant locations seeking alternate non-asbestos materials with satisfactory functional performance. In order for this to be as effective as possible, Mr. Caprio will need to know what physical and chemical properties are required for the application, defined as fully as practicable. As necessary, he will consult with Dr. R. G. LaBar of Alcoa Technical Center for assistance.

According to Mr. J. A. Dunbar of the Ingot, Pigment, Powder and Paste Division, satisfactory non-asbestos alternates have been established for all significant melting and casting applications, except for some applications of Molten Metal Marinite (MMM). Extensive plant evaluation of the alternate material developed for MMM is actively underway. If significant problems are encountered with any of these established alternates, Mr. Dunbar or Dr. LaBar should be made aware of these promptly.



If you have already discovered a satisfactory replacement for asbestos in an application which may be involved at another works location, it would be very helpful if you could make Mr. Caprio aware of enough of the particulars so that he could recommend evaluation of such a material where appropriate in similar situations.

Please contact Mr. Robert P. Carter if he can be of any help with respect to whether the proposed asbestos standard would apply to a particular use situation and thereby make seeking an alternate material desirable.

ROBERT P. CARTER
M. J. CAPRIO

MJC:RPC:lmn

Letter to: Industrial Hygienists and District Purchasing Agents

Note: Information relative to health standards proposed or promulgated under authority of the U. S. Occupational Safety and Health Act is sent to overseas locations for informational purposes only.

cc:
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Works Engineering Managers and Works Chief Engineers
Environmental Health Steering Committee
Chairmen & Environmental Managers
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