


GEORGIA-PACIFIC

PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT

GP-1601

INTERDEPARTMENTAL COMMUNICATION

TO: Mr. John Woodemall

FROM: C. W. Lehnert

SUBJECT: ASBESTOS FIBER IN JOINT COMPOUNDS

DATE: June 19, 1973

LOCATION: Detroit Sales

LOCATION: Tigard Lab

cc: Mr. O. E. Burch - Portland
 Mr. T. W. Richards - Tigard
 Mr. T. R. Godfrey - Portland

THIS COPY FOR

I will try to respond to your customers' concern about asbestos fiber prompted by our labeling of joint system bags. This caution label is required by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). We have always used asbestos fiber in our joint system products, so if there is a hazard, it is no different today than it has been in the past. The hazard is the inhalation of asbestos fiber. The degree of hazard would depend on the concentration of asbestos fiber in the air and duration of exposure to that air. The health problems associated with asbestos have occurred in situations where workers have been exposed to high concentrations of asbestos fiber over a period of years. Joint compounds contain relatively small percentages (2-8%) of asbestos fiber.

OSHA has imposed a number of stringent standards on plants where products are manufactured containing asbestos fiber. These include limitations on the concentration of fiber in the air, procedures for handling the asbestos fiber, use of protective devices (respirators), periodic medical examinations, and labeling of all products containing asbestos fiber.

I am not aware of any OSHA regulations for the use of joint system products. However, it is recognized that there is some exposure during the mixing of dry products and the sanding of joints after the joint compounds have been applied. The level of asbestos fiber concentration at these times is not presently known. The industry is currently planning tests to determine the level of airborne asbestos during the mixing and sanding. In the meantime, it would probably be advisable for workers engaged in these operations to wear respirators. Once mixed or wetted, the asbestos fiber is not subject to becoming airborne and, therefore, is no longer hazardous. For example, ready mixed products would present no problem other than perhaps the sanding.

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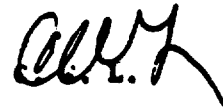
Mr. John Woodsmall

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June 19, 1973

One solution of the asbestos fiber problem for all concerned is to eliminate it from our products. We are engaged in a program to find ways to do this. Our first efforts were with joint system textures because we felt the spray application presented some special problems. At this time we are about 90% converted to non-asbestos texture formulas. We are now directing our attention to our dry and ready mixed joint compounds.

I hope this information will answer our customers' questions concerning the possible hazards of asbestos fiber and the actions being taken to eliminate or minimize those hazards.



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THE EVENING TIMES, TRENTON, N.J., FRIDAY, AUGUST 29, 1975

Spackling may harbor dangerous asbestos level

By FRANCES CERRA
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Do-it-yourselfers who repair their own plaster or plasterboard walls should be aware of recent research indicating that some commonly available spackling compounds contain asbestos, a substance that has been linked to fatal cancers and serious lung diseases.

The Environmental Sciences Laboratory at Manhattan's Mount Sinai Hospital under the direction of Dr. Irving J. Selikoff, recently released the results of tests of 15 kinds of spackle that had been purchased in New York City. Five were found to contain appreciable amounts of asbestos. (Some of the samples were duplicate brands bought at different times.)

According to Dr. Selikoff, the union of Drywall Tapers and Pointers of Greater New York called his attention to the possibility that the spackle might contain asbestos. John Alfaroni, an official of the union, said some of the members became ill and were found to be suffering from asbestos-caused diseases.

AS A RESULT of Dr. Selikoff's findings, he said, his union members will no longer work with any spackle that contains asbestos, and will only sand the dried spackle if they are provided with masks. The asbestos in spackle is released into the air, according to Dr. Selikoff, when the dry forms are mixed with water to make

a paste and when any form of spackle is sanded.

Dr. David Rall, director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, said it was doubtful that someone doing a small amount of sparkling work at home was in any danger. But he said that someone redoing the walls of an entire house might be taking "an unnecessary risk."

Extensive research on the results of long-range, low-level asbestos exposure is in progress, he said.

A spokesman for U.S. Gypsum, the manufacturer of one of the spackling brands found to contain asbestos, said the company was phasing out the production of spackles with asbestos. A spot check of several Manhattan paint stores found cans of U.S. Gypsum's Texolite, which contains from 6 to 10 percent asbestos, still on the market. Also found was another U.S. Gypsum product called

Durabond Paste Spackling, which was labeled: "Caution: Contains asbestos fibers. Avoid creating dust. Breathing asbestos dust may cause serious bodily harm."

THE OTHER PRODUCTS found by Dr. Selikoff to contain asbestos were Perf A Tape, Metro and Arvon. The Perf A Tape was counted twice by Dr. Selikoff, because it was purchased and tested twice, only in 1972 or earlier, and later in January, 1974. Products found to be without asbestos were Red Top, Muralo, Patch Paste, Schalk, U-G-L Cerfex Kex, N.w Kex and Dap. Dr. Selikoff cautioned that the products on the market today might contain different ingredients.

Persons wishing to minimize any risk should use only paste spackle and should wear a mask when sanding. Most labels on spackle products do not disclose the constituents that went into them.

Xcc: chet Smalley
Dave Corkhill ✓
Bill Lehnert

