



FOSECO, INC.

INTER-COMPANY AND INTER-DEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

TO: W. C. Sutherland

FROM: E. J. Jago

DATE: August 22, 1972

SUBJECT: GREAT LAKES
HEALTH HAZARD FROM
PROFAX® AND PROFLEX®

On Tuesday, August 15th, Dan Grogan and I met with

Ron Crosby and
Robert Ajemian, Manager Health & Safety Dept.

The subject of discussion was health problems arising from the use of PROFAX® and PROFLEX®.

Of initial concern were reports from the pit crews that Proflex caused skin irritation. In part this had been offset by issuing rubber covered gloves but more assurances were needed. I explained that the problems were probably associated with penetration of the skin by glass fiber and that our experience and those of Owens Corning, etc. indicated that in most cases irritation declined after a few days. I provided Ajemian with a reference "Health Aspects of Fiberglas" in which the points I had made were confirmed.

Ajemian requested that we continue to try and improve the product and examine the use of fibers of less diameter as these should tend to give fewer skin problems. It was agreed that we would attempt to develop less irritating materials and would submit a sample of modified material as soon as possible and no later than the end of October.

Asbestos was the next subject raised. I explained our current position and what actions we were proposing to take to reduce the asbestos levels. Crosby and Ajemian requested that we proceed with all speed, even though the bonded products probably would not be a problem, as the thought of having to conduct 24 hour monitoring of work areas, provide dual lockers and periodic health examinations scared them. I explained that it probably would be better for all concerned if we attempted to reduce asbestos in the rings and boards at the same time as we tried to reduce the skin irritation rather than deal with the problems separately. They agreed so I said that we would be back to them with samples combining all the best properties during October.

E. J. Jago

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Great Lakes
Health Hazard
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Footnote: After the meeting we observed (with Crosby) the bad smoke emitted from the topping compound in use. Appropriate comments were made and hopefully the path opened for a future test of the latest low fume products. It is suggested that D. Gegan contact J. Moore and arrange for a detailed presentation of this product during the last quarter of 1972.

Taylor

ELJ/cel

Cc: R. C. Phoenix
H. D. Shephard
P. A. Partington
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H. D. Wright
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