

FILE NAME: Union Carbide (UC)

DATE: 1973 Dec 3

DOC#: UC142

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Memo RE What Every Employee Should Know About Asbestos



INTERNAL CORRESPONDENCE

UNION CARBIDE CORPORATION

270 PARK AVENUE, NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10017

To (Name) Mr. W. J. Kovack
 Division Mining and Metals Division
 Location 38th Floor
 270 Park Avenue

Date December 3, 1973
 Originating Dept. Medical Department

Answering letter date

Copy to Mr. W. T. Atkinson

Subject WHAT EVERY EMPLOYEE SHOULD
 KNOW ABOUT ASBESTOS

Dear Bill:

As I mentioned to you on the telephone, we have read the attached booklet and find it to be acceptable from the medical viewpoint except for the paragraph on page 3 entitled, "Now About Smoking." The second sentence in that paragraph reads as follows: "On the other hand, the asbestos industry workmen who do not smoke cigarettes--and who never have smoked regularly--show no greater incidence of bronchogenic cancer than the average man-on-the-street who does not smoke."

I phoned Mr. William B. Reitze, Manager of Accident Prevention and Industrial Health at Johns-Manville. I questioned this statement and asked for supporting medical literature. He referred to the work of Dr. Irving Selikoff. Since Dr. Selikoff's work is questionable at best, it is open to criticism; and more than likely this statement cannot be justified.

Even if we assume that such a statement is true, it may be misleading to the employees who may ignore the fact that heavy asbestos exposure leads to other conditions such as asbestosis and mesothelioma.

We have the same complaint about the statement on page 10, first paragraph, where they restate that "...you have no greater chance of getting bronchogenic cancer than the average person not occupationally exposed to asbestos who does not smoke."

Very truly yours,

John J. Welsh
 John J. Welsh, M.D.

JJW:BA
 Attachment

RECEIVED
 DEC 5 1973
 M&M Employee Relations

UCC 013055