

FOSECO, INC.

INTER-COMPANY AND INTER-DEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

TO:

FROM: Mike Wood

cc: J. Ailes

DATE: October 16, 1973

SUBJECT: Raw Material RMX-3562

A number of employees have expressed a concern over their reaction to the new raw material RMX-3562. There are some things about this material I feel you should know.

OSHA has recently advised American industry that it must find substitutes for asbestos. Asbestos is a widely used material and has been the backbone of many Foseco products for years. Finding an adequate substitute has been a top priority at Foseco. The very future of the Company depends on our success in accomplishing this.

RMX-3562 is a temporary solution to the substitution problem. It is a natural material that is mined in up-state New York. It is silica-free and has no serious health consequences associated with it's use. By comparison, the standards for airborne particles allowable are 50 million parts per cubic foot as opposed to 2 million parts per cubic foot of asbestos. The Interpace Company which mines this material has been doing so for 20 years and no employees have suffered any internal ill effects.

This material is classified as a nuisance and it certainly can be. Different people react differently to it, but standard reaction is itching and irritation upon contact, particularly around areas where there is chaffing and where the individual has been perspiring. It is possible through constant contact to build up an immunity to the irritation. Employees at the mine have to go through "break-in period" of approximately 1 week after returning from vacation or a period of time where they are not exposed to the material. There are a number of things we can do to minimize the nuisance of this material. It will require that everyone recognize that the potential for irritation exists and work intelligently to minimize the effects. On a separate sheet I am listing some "do's and don'ts" for people who handle the material.

Finally I feel that it is very important that everyone advise their supervisor as to the reactions they are having and perhaps any successful techniques they might discover to minimize the irritation. Of course it goes without saying, that anyone who wishes to consult a physician over their reaction to the material should report to Personnel where arrangements will be made. We will continue to examine our work practices and attempt to find the best way of handling this material. I can assure you that Foseco is searching world-wide for other substitutes for asbestos.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR HANDLING RMX-3562

Employees who handle the material known as RMX-3562 have two options to combat the nuisance irritation caused by the material.

1. Knowing that an immunity builds up with exposure, employees may choose to not use protective cream. This will enable them to determine whether they are able to build up an immunity to the material.

2. The cream Kerodex has been proven to be an effective protection against the nuisance irritation of this material. However, as long as it is used, no immunity is developed. Therefore, the Kerodex must be used as directed at all times. Skin must be clean and dry before application. It must be lightly and evenly distributed over all possible areas of exposure leaving no excesses. This process must be repeated during break times to continue the protection the cream provides. Once the material makes contact with unprotected skin the nuisance irritation will appear and it is too late for the protective cream.

Regardless of whether one chooses to use the protective cream which is available in the supervisor's office or not, the following do's and don'ts should be observed by everyone having contact with RMX-3562:

Do wear long clothing to reduce the amount of skin exposed.

Do wash frequently, particularly at breaks and shower thoroughly before going home.

Don't wear work clothes home but change your clothes after showering.

Don't wash work clothes with the rest of the family's wash, but wash them separately.

Don't scratch or rub the irritated areas.

Do handle the material in such a way as to minimize not only your contact but the contact of your fellow employees.

