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September 28, 1972

PFIZER INC.
TOLEDO
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TO: E. E. Rourke
FROM: R. H. Lepley
SUBJECT: Competitive Acoustical Plasters
CC: J. K. Barr B. G. Long
D. G. Brant H. D. Stanley
R. W. Linnett W. M. Stephenson

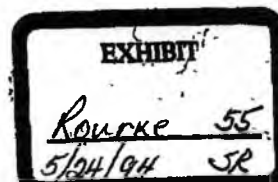
Per your request, the rumors have been checked regarding the withdrawal of the asbestos based acoustical plasters which are competitive with Kilnoise.

According to Joe Volk at National Gypsum's Research Center, they have withdrawn Perfolite from the market. Cost of modifying the plant to meet OSHA requirements for handling asbestos was the prime factor. Other factors were the cost of development of a new product without asbestos and the declining market for acoustical plaster.

U. S. Gypsum will announce the demise of Hi-Lite on October 1. The OSHA asbestos standards and the lack of volume were also factors in U. S. Gypsum's decision according to R. P. Entz, Group Product Manager, based in Chicago.

The OSHA standard which took affect July 7, 1972 limits exposure of employees to asbestos dust to 5 fibers per cubic centimeter of air on a time-weighted average. The maximum concentration permitted is 10 fibers per cubic centimeter. Initial monitoring is required within six months (January 7, 1973) to determine whether every employees' exposure to asbestos fibers is below the limits prescribed.

Additionally, the employer must provide and require the use of special protective clothing, change rooms, separate lockers for work and street clothes, special laundering practices, plus caution signs and labels. Asbestos waste, scrap, bags and contaminated clothing consigned for disposal is to be disposed of in sealed impermeable containers.



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A more complete abstract of the standard is attached.

Since the standard covers both the manufacturer and the user, National Gypsum and U. S. Gypsum elected to withdraw their products rather than comply with the regulations before the January 7 deadline.

Unless we can develop an acoustical plaster without asbestos before year's end, it appears that we will be faced with the decision on discontinuing the manufacture of Kilnoise.


R. H. Lepley

dm

Attachment

SAMPLE 15833

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