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UNITED STATES GYPSUM COMPANY

1000 East Northwest Highway/Des Plaines, Illinois 60016

RESEARCH CENTER
AREA CODE 312
CYPRESS 9-3381

July 18, 1978

Mr. T. Vilord
Sterling Drug Inc.
160 Summit Avenue
Montvale, NJ 07645

Dear Mr. Vilord:

This is in reply to your phone call this date regarding RED-TOP FIRECODE Plaster. Arrangements have been made for our Mr. W. Tyson to inspect your installation to identify the material in question, and to make any recommendations that may be appropriate. Although we have no samples or other confirmation at this time, that the United States Gypsum product, RED TOP FIRECODE Plaster was used in your facility, we submit the following to assist you.

RED TOP FIRECODE Plaster is a lightweight, insulative, fire resistant, but tough, gypsum plaster cement which was manufactured under Factory Inspection and Label Service of Underwriter's Laboratories. The composition, in place, consists primarily of rehydrated gypsum plaster cement (approximately 51%), expanded vermiculite or perlite aggregate (approximately 36%), and asbestos (approximately 12%).

The insulating property and strength of FIRECODE Plaster is provided by the rehydrated gypsum plaster cement ($CaSO_4 \cdot 2H_2O$) and the lightweight expanded aggregate. The small amount of asbestos is added only to provide body (resistance to sag and flow) to the fluid mortar; it also reenforces the plaster and preserves its integrity when exposed to high temperature.

The asbestos fibers are securely embedded and immobilized in the gypsum plaster cement matrix and would not be released to the air unless it were forcefully pulverized.

We will be in a better position to advise you after Mr. Tyson has made his inspection; but if I can be of further service at any time, please feel free to call on me.

Sincerely,

Kenneth S. Freeman

Kenneth S. Freeman, Manager
Consumer Product Safety
Research and Development

RSF:ka

PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT
USG-151

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bcc:

#991 - W. Tyson
#159 - J. F. Hernan