KA..ER GYPSUM COMPANY, INC.

INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO AT: H.C. Dupuis

DATE: April 8, 1974

Chuck

COPIES TO: R.H. James
G.B. Kirk

FROM AT: C.V. Durant

SUBJECT

JOINT COMPOUND - ASBESTOS

Attached is a memo from Dick James requesting that we eliminate asbestos fibers from our joint compound as quickly as possible. In addition, he has enclosed a copy of the Wall Street Journal article which has aggravated his problem there in the North East. Do we have a research program under way to completely eliminate asbestos in joint compound? Perhaps you could respond to James to bring him up to date on work in this direction.

Thank you.

CVD/ib

KAISER GYPSUM COMPANY INC.

INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO C. V. Durant
AT Oakland

DATE April 5, 1974

COPIES TO J. H. Watson

FROM R. H. James
AT Delanco

SUBJECT JOINT COMPOUND - ASBESTOS

Attached is a copy of an article that appeared in the Wall Street Journal recently. The asbestos fibers in joint compound products continues to affect sales. The label warning of the asbestos content appears to be worse than the actual material itself. As you can see, everyone is up in arms over this problem. It appears to be extremely serious in New York City. As we sell a large quantity of joint compound to Werner Krebs in the Bronx, who does a lot of work in New York City, this could eventually reduce our pre-mix joint compound sales.

If anything can be done to change our formula to eliminate asbestos fibers, I think it should be done as quickly as possible.

RHJ:get

Asbestos Danger Is Cited In Spackling Dry Walls

By a WALL STREET JOURNAL *Staff Reporter*

WASHINGTON — Materials used to cover seams in dry-wall construction may expose workers to harmful levels of asbestos fibers, federal officials warned.

The Labor Department said that spackling and taping compounds often used to cover joints contain asbestos and that workers sanding joints smooth before painting may expose themselves to unsafe levels of asbestos fibers in the air.

Taping compounds are spread over paper tape at joints of interior wall sections, are allowed to dry and are sanded before the surfaces are painted. Spackling compounds are a plaster-like material used to fill holes and joints.

The department's Occupational Safety and Health Administration said employer groups and unions are being asked to alert workers to the potential hazard. The warning followed an examination of 17 members of a New York City painters union local. The examination showed the lungs of nine painters had X-ray evidence of fibrosis, or excessive secretion build-up in the lungs.

Asbestos fibers are easily inhaled. Once in the lungs, the fibers are coated with a secretion that in sufficient amounts can seriously impair lung capacity. Asbestos exposure can also cause lung cancer.

Follow up 5-7-74

KAISER GYPSUM COMPANY, INC.

INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM G-7

TO H. C. Dupuis
AT Oakland Room 2458

DATE April 19, 1974

COPIES TO C. V. Durant
G. B. Kirk
J. H. Watson

FROM R. H. James
AT Delanco

SUBJECT JOINT COMPOUND - ASBESTOS

In answer to your memo of April 10, we have found no pre-mix joint compounds in the mid-atlantic that do not contain asbestos fibers. My point was that we are the only people that label our cans in such a way as to alarm contractors, dealers and employees. No one else in the market labels their cans as "efficiently" as we do. We have lost jobs, not because of the asbestos fibers, but because of the label. Hopefully competitive products will be "found out" eventually and they will start to lose business or make changes to compounds without asbestos. My points are: 1. We should either eliminate our strong warning on the cans or be assured our competition will do the same. 2. We should work on a formulation that would eliminate the use of asbestos fibers.

RHJ:get