FILE NAME: General Refractories Company (GRC)

DATE: 1956 Nov

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DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Excerpt of Minutes - 21st Annual Meeting of the IHF - Documenting Recognition of Duty

Date: November, 1956
Description: 21st Annual Meeting of the Industrial Hygiene Foundation
Exhibit No.: P-West-176

Comment: Dr. Zapp: "The term 'toxic material' is subject to very many interpretations by different people ... And then, since a precise definition that would fit all circumstances is not possible, the Committee felt that **any substance that when improperly used may produce harm by chemical action, should be provided with an appropriate cautionary label or statement**, et cetera." (p. 251) [emphasis added]

[redacted]

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Comment: Dr. Zapp: "Now it seems to me that **the manufacturer has a very definite responsibility to his customers and to the public**, and that is **to point out to them how his product can be used with safety. Nothing can interfere with that responsibility** on the part of the manufacturer ... We know, for example, that two substances may be equally toxic but quite **different** in respect to hazard. Thus, **it should be the industrial hygienist's responsibility to accumulate all the information that is available**, and it should be his responsibility to digest this information and determine to what extent more information is needed, **because he can't limit his responsibility by simply saying that only so much is known about the substance and, therefore, decisions have to be based upon this limited data**." (p. 254) [emphasis added]



Recognition of Duty

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Comment: Dr. Bachman: "I can only add to Mr. Hatch's remarks by calling attention to an action one company is taking. They **bring in the customer's employees who are going to use this material and give the employees of the customer a course in the handling of it. Now this, I think, is an excellent approach when you get to extremely hazardous conditions.** I don't know of anything that you can do beyond that." (p. 258) [emphasis added]

[redacted]

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Comment: Dr. McGee: "I think the only successful programs that I have observed elsewhere, outside of our organization, are those in which the employee has some knowledge of why he follows certain operating procedures regardless of what the end effect is of the material or the end effect might be in the materials that he handles. Therefore, I would say that **we must give the employee that knowledge so that he can understand and use it in coming to a conclusion as to why he must do certain things to protect himself.** I think the same statements apply to organized groups and safety committees and union leaders." (p. 272) [emphasis added]

[redacted]

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Comment: Dr. Bachman: "I would like to comment in reference to earlier questions. To maintain safety awareness you must say that **a company has to tell its employees what the nature of the materials is which they are handling, whether they are toxic or carcinogenic, because you can never have a safety program unless you give the people working with toxic or carcinogenic materials such information.** I don't think that was adequately emphasized before." (p. 276) [emphasis added]

[redacted]