

FILE NAME: RT Vanderbilt (RTV)

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April 27, 1972

Mr. W. W. Ethier, Dir. of Purchases
Coatings & Resins Division

WESTAL 303 - YOUR CODE RM-5360

Dear Mr. Ethier:

In answer to your question regarding the
tremolite content of the above mineral product, it has been determin-
ed that a small proportion - in the amount of 1 or 2% - consists of
the mineral tremolite.

We believe, however, that the structural form
of the tremolite to be found in our product is such that it does not
fall into the category of asbestos, as that term is used in various
regulations dealing with occupational safety and health. Whereas
asbestos is described as a fibrous mineral silicate, the structural
form of the tremolite found in the above product is characterized by
a mixture of nodules, rods, plates and needles. The small fraction of
tremolite found in our product in the needle form is not soft, thread-
like and of high tensile strength, much as in the case of asbestos,
but rather is brittle, fragile, and of low tensile strength.

At present, it is our belief that the existence
of tremolite in our product does not constitute a mineral dust exposure
hazard greater than that of non-asbestiform talc, for which the Threshold
Limit Value has been established at 20 mppcf.

Very truly yours,

R. T. VANDERBILT COMPANY, INC.
E. W. Howard, Manager Paint-Paper Dept.

WRHMF
CC: MESSRS. A. M. HARVEY
J. F. MCCARTHY

U. S. GOVERNMENT, LABORATION, DEFENDING SERVICES, 1000 10th St.

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