PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT

BOND-257

R.T. VANDERBILT COMPANY, INC.
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January 25, 1977

To Our Talc Customers

Subject: Talc Certification

Gentlemen:

In a letter from the U. S. Department of Labor, dated October 9, 1974, we were authorized to certify that our talc products do not contain asbestos. This reasonable move was followed by OSHA Field Memorandum #74-92, which attempted to clarify the differences between asbestiform and non-asbestiform minerals.

Dr. Morton Corn, the most recent Assistant Secretary of Labor and head of OSHA, informed us in a letter received January 24, 1977, that this authorization has now been rescinded and the Field Memorandum has been cancelled. These most recent rulings were made just prior to Dr. Corn's resignation and mean we are no longer in a position to certify that our talc products do not contain asbestos even though they are composed of the same non-asbestiform minerals processed the same as always.

We are unable to explain this unwarranted reversal of policy by OSHA, but you can be assured we will actively oppose this injustice with all the technical and legal means available to us. Our talcs have been the subject of two OSHA cases during the past year which have gone to litigation. One case remains unresolved and in the other one the Government backed down from their asbestos contention and accepted a settlement which was not even under the Asbestos Standard.

We thank you for your continued consideration and support.

Sincerely,

R. T. VANDERBILT COMPANY, INC.

The recommendations for use of our materials are based upon tests believed to be reliable however we do not guarantee the results to be obtained