ASBESTOS AND THE FRICTION MATERIAL INDUSTRY

Mr. I. M. Weaver of Raybestos-Manhattan, Inc., who serves as Chairman of the Friction Materials Standards Institute Asbestos Study Committee addressed the Annual Membership Meeting of the Institute. Mr. Weaver's address was delivered in Vail, Colorado on Wednesday morning, June 27, 1973.

Mr. Weaver's address follows:

When Ed (Drislane) asked me to attend your annual meeting last year, I had to decline, which may have been just as well in view of the confused status of both OSHA and EPA regulations at the time. This year things are only slightly less confused, but I am glad to be able to be here anyway to attempt to fulfill my responsibilities in reporting to you as your Asbestos Study Committee Chairman. Rather than present a detailed statement covering Committee activities for the year, I should like to use my time to review some of the more controversial and confused elements of the Federal Asbestos Regulations, and give recommendations as to what I think the stance of the Friction Materials Industry should be in regard to them.

In lieu of a detailed report covering the past year's activities, I have prepared a page and a half summmary of the Committee's work from June '72 thru June 1, 1973. Mr. Drislane will circulate copies of this summary to anyone who may be interested in it, and if any of you have questions or recommendations concerning our past work or future intentions, please feel free to bring them up here, or if you prefer, transmit them to Ed for our review later.

Probably the single most significant event that occurred during the past year on the subject of asbestos hazards was the meeting of the International Agency for Research on Cancer that was held at Lyon, France last October. This meeting was attended by more than a hundred and thirty medical researchers and representatives of government, industry and labor from virtually every major asbestos consuming or producing country in the world. For four days intensive sessions on asbestos were held by three different panels, each made up of ten to twenty-five of the foremost medical and scientific experts operating in the various fields of asbestos-health research. Following the meetings the committees issued a combined report on asbestos cancers. I think the following five items summarize their most important conclusions:

(1) All major commercial types of asbestos can cause cancer.

(2) Evidence suggests that excess lung cancer is not detectable when occupational exposure has been low. (Just what is meant by "low" was not stated.)

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