

FILE NAME: Kentile (KEN)

DATE: 1968 Oct 16

DOC#: KEN034

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Confidential Memo RE Safety - Asbestos, with Letter from J-M RE New Caution Labels

CONFIDENTIAL



XXXX V. J. Gentile

C. W. Kelly

Safety - Asbestosis

October 16, 1968

We attach hereto a self-explanatory letter dated October 1, 1968 that we received from the Canadian Johns-Manville Company.

We do not purchase any asbestos from the Canadian Johns-Manville Company at this time; however, we have written the Carey Mines asking if they intend to place a similar label in their asbestos. We do know that all of the Canadian asbestos suppliers have mutually discussed this problem for many years; therefore, it is likely that Carey will follow suit.

You will recall that the Brooklyn Union brought this matter up at a Union grievance session several years ago after an article on asbestos appeared in a medical article in the New York Daily News.

If you have any comments on this matter, please advise. In the meantime, we are not to issue any information, etc., on this subject into the plant. However, please contact Messrs. Tailo, Bernhardt and Reynolds in a confidential memorandum requesting each plant manager's assurance that all individuals coming in contact with asbestos wear dust masks.

CWK:fp

C. W. Kelly

cc: Mr. J. L. Kelsyski



SP366462

CANADIAN Johns-Manville Asbestos LIMITED



ASBESTOS FIBRE DIVISION

P.O. BOX 1500 — ASBESTOS, QUEBEC — TELEPHONE: 879-5431

October 1st, 1968.

Gentlemen:

You will notice that beginning shortly each bag of chrysotile asbestos fibre shipped by this Company will carry a label reading as follows:-

CAUTION

"This bag contains chrysotile asbestos fibre. Persons exposed to this material should use adequate protective devices as inhalation of this material over long periods may be harmful."

The label is intended to remind all industrial users of asbestos that proper handling will contribute to improved conditions in work areas.

Physical protection for employees is provided through the use of safety hats, shoes, glasses, and other devices when circumstances warrant. Health protection is just as important and should include appropriate practices and equipment such as collectors, ventilators, masks, etc., to prevent inhalation of fumes and particulate matter.

As you know, in the past several years there has been increasing publicity and medical attention given to health effects of inhaling industrial dust and fumes of all kinds. Some studies have raised the question whether adequate control measures are being taken in certain industrial operations to prevent the inhalation of asbestos particles. Other studies have shown that where proper protective measures are taken, occupational health risks are minimized.

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Medical research on health questions relating to asbestos is being sponsored by Johns-Manville, the Quebec Asbestos Mining Association, and several other organizations. Such research will lead to a better understanding and control of health hazards associated with inhalation of asbestos particles.

Until more concrete information is available from the abovementioned research, we have concluded that it is in the best interest of all concerned that we place the above label on bags containing asbestos to encourage careful handling of the fibre.

If you have any questions, we would be pleased to hear from you.

Yours very truly,



N. W. HENDRY,
General Sales Manager.

NWH / oh

