

TURNER & NEWALL LIMITED

MANCHESTER

H.D.S. HARDIE

TO

AJA⁽⁴⁾/ADB/ATB⁽³⁾/VVK/PMR/MCP⁽⁵⁾/IR/
YL
RIW

SG/CWN/BGH/DWH/RDHS
FGC/KHD/RAW
ALR

6th April 1981

CONFIDENTIAL

ASBESTOS DUST LEVELS IN OVERSEAS COMPANIES

At its meeting last month the Executive Committee considered the report which each of you have sent on the asbestos dust levels now obtaining in your plant and commenting on the possibilities of achieving a one fibre standard in those operations by 1st January 1985.

Although progress has been made over the past few years, the Committee considered that there was a great deal remaining to be done. The T&N Board must carry the ultimate responsibility for environmental conditions in its operations. It must be reasonably assured, therefore, that acceptable international standards are met in each establishment. This does not necessarily mean that UK standards become T&N standards world-wide but if, for example, the European Community adopted a Community standard for asbestos dust then from a moral point of view it would be difficult to defend significantly easier standards in manufacturing companies outside Europe.

The Mines, of course, are in a different position and developments in the Canadian mines would be of greater significance than developments in the European Community.

To enable T&N to discharge its obligations the Executive Committee decided that an annual check of overseas companies' dust counts should be made by Mr. Rickards, the Group Fibre Hygienist. The check may involve overseas visits by Mr. Rickards but, in the first place, he will undertake a desk exercise. This will involve receiving from you, by 30th September each year, a statement which

1. lists each department in which dust counts are regularly taken,
2. shows the dust counts recorded at each sampling in each department,
3. comments on progress being made towards the achievement of a 2 fibre standard in any department and on the perceived obstacles to that achievement.

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- 2 -

These reports should cover the experience of the twelve months to 30th June in each year. In respect of the year to 30th June 1981, it may be that dust counts have not been taken for the full twelve months in some operations. In such cases, please start your report from the date from which you commenced regular sampling.

As a separate item, it would be helpful if, from time to time, Mr. Rickards could compare local counting of a sample with counting undertaken at Rochdale. I shall write about the protocol for this on a later occasion. In the meantime, I shall be grateful if you will let me know if you anticipate any difficulty in handling the report discussed in this letter.

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