

GRACE

Construction Products Division

W R Grace & Co.
62 Whittemore Avenue
Cambridge, Mass. 02140

(617) 876-1400

June 7, 1982

Mr. Larry Mickey
Timken Co.
1835 Dueber Ave., S.W.
Canton, OH 44706



Dear Mr. Mickey:

This letter is to follow up on our 6/7/82 conversation concerning MONOKOTE Fireproofing.

Prior to July, 1973, the Construction Products Division of W. R. Grace & Co. produced a sprayed plaster fireproofing product, MONOKOTE-3.

MONOKOTE-3 Fireproofing, as manufactured, was a blend of lightweight vermiculite aggregate, gypsum, asbestos fibers and air entraining agents. The product contained approximately 13% by weight of the asbestos material. The Environmental Protection Agency banned asbestos containing sprayed fireproofing and in June, 1973, MONOKOTE-3 was removed from the market.

When evaluating a future course of action with regard to older asbestos containing construction materials, such as MONOKOTE-3, consideration needs to be made of the following parameters:

1. The age of the material;
2. Its physical condition in-place; and
3. The possibility of physical damage, due to accessibility.

Because of the "setting" characteristic of this gypsum-based product, we believe the asbestos fibers are encapsulated in the matrix. This conclusion assumes that the material is undisturbed and has suffered no in-place damage.

If the material has been subjected to external forces which have left its surface sifting and flaking, consideration should be given to either removal or encapsulation of the material with a sealer.

Of course, the overall concern is possible exposure to respirable asbestos fibers from the fireproofing and other materials. Only onsite, breathing zone determinations will determine the exposure concentrations. Air monitoring should be done in accordance with OSHA regulations.

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Mr. Larry Mickey

Towards understanding this situation further, I have enclosed a copy of the EPA guidance document "Asbestos-Containing Materials in Buildings". This document provides much of the background of the asbestos problem in this country, along with general guidelines on handling such problems.

Please review the enclosed and get back to me if you have any questions or require clarification on a particular point.

Very truly yours,

Robert C. Ericson
Robert C. Ericson
Director, Quality Assurance

RCE:dm

Enclosure

: R. A. Merther

:: MK-3 History

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