PLAINTIFF'S
EXHIBIT
USG-127

~~Mr Stark~~, Howard
#147-2 - ~~R P Entz~~
PN & R
7-7-72
7/11

RECEIVED
JUL 10 1972
GYPSUM WALLBOARD #147-2

#170-1 - A. R. Rump

#170-1 - W. W. Holloway

Asbestos

I met today with the people who are receiving copies of this letter to discuss action necessary with regard to the federal regulations on asbestos which are effective today.

Our conclusions were as follows:

1. There is no present practical way to eliminate asbestos from the joint cement formulas. If it is legally possible we wish to avoid the necessity for labelling our formulations as containing asbestos and therefore hazardous, unless and until the labelling practice is adopted by the industry. We therefore agreed that we would employ the NATLSCO service as outside consultants to evaluate the dust concentrations which occur when Ready Mix joints are sanded and when dry joint compounds are mixed and when dry compound joints are sanded. Hopefully, the concentrations which occur in use will not require labelling. However, our action in this respect will be determined when we have the NATLSCO report. (As you know, NATLSCO is the Kemper Insurance technical arm which we used for industrial hygiene surveys at all USA plants during 1971 and 1972).

   We also agreed that Clarence Howard should work with Research to evaluate our best asbestos-free joint compound formula and, if it seems reasonably practical, we would try to field test such a formula in the near future in order to get some job experience with the best we have to offer at this time.

2. There is a long list of paint products using asbestos formulations. We have a complicated determination of whether to work to eliminate asbestos, to label the product, or to drop the product from the line. Because this is an involved product line, we decided to turn the handling of this problem over to Mr. McVay and Mr. Milstead for conducting the necessary work with the Research Department to arrive at the optimum solutions.

3. In the plaster area, we decided to eliminate Audicote and Hi-Lite from the product line immediately.

   We decided to eliminate Oriental Interior from the product line immediately.

   Oriental Exterior formulation will be immediately changed to a new asbestos-free formulation which has been developed and successfully tried at Sweetwater. If we have markets where this formulation is not suitable,

none is sufficiently profitable to pose any significant penalty if we drop the product, so the formula change will be immediate and all-inclusive.

4. There are a number of industrial casting plasters containing asbestos, but there are substitution opportunities believed to be capable of solving the problems. We will turn this matter over to Mr. Lambe to study and make recommendations.

Meanwhile, Mr. Cornell has notified the plants using asbestos, where we expect this use to continue, to submit their Authority Requests for necessary dust collection equipment if the NATLSCO surveys taken earlier indicate they are above the new threshold limits on asbestos fiber.

WWB

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c.c. #147-1 - C. C. Cramer
#147-2 - R. P. Entz ✓
#132-1 - J. J. McLaughlin
#151 - K. S. Freeman
#149 - J. T. Allen
#170-6 - J. D. Cornell