

TURNER & NEWALL PLC

MANCHESTER

H.D.S. HARDIE

TO

DGC
RJB/WAB/GCC/BD/JBH/CEB
RKD/JCTF/SNI/VNK/VL/MCP/
CJS/JRS/NV/AHWFLT/RDMS/DWH
KHD/JMA

12th September 1983

*As discussed not for
Shaw - issued*CONFIDENTIALASBESTOS WARNING LABELS

Although it is T&N policy to put warning labels on products containing asbestos, the wording used differs widely in different countries, partly because of the impact of local legislation. Moreover, local circumstances have resulted in the exclusion from labelling of some products where the asbestos fibre is locked in (e.g. CAF and gaskets made therefrom).

The differences in the practice of operating companies in the implementation of T&N policy was considered at a Directors' meeting last week. After lengthy discussion it was decided that

1. all companies in the Group will label all products containing asbestos whether required by domestic legislation or not;
2. the words to be used will be based on the words of the Australian regulations, which are also used in Malaysia, Indonesia and New Zealand, namely:

CAUTION

Contains asbestos ~~dust~~ fibre.
Breathing asbestos dust may cause serious
damage to health including cancer
Smoking greatly increases the risk
Observe the safety instructions

3. the warning will have the "a" logo superimposed, but will not include the words "Take care with asbestos";
4. as the purpose of the label is to warn, the text should not be lost in other written material. The example below is not an acceptable way of conveying a warning - the fact that the wrapper is re-usable is more prominent than the statement that breathing asbestos dust can damage health;



5. warnings in sales documentation and other literature should be amended in the same way as in (2) above, and Safety Instructions must be included in such literature.

I recognise that most companies will have stocks of labels. These should be used up as quickly as practicable, with the new wording incorporated when you re-order. By labelling those items not covered hitherto, your rate of usage may increase. The changeover to the new wording must be completed for all products not later than 31st March 1984.

Where labels are not used, but the warning is stencilled or printed directly on to the product (as with asbestos-cement) the change can be effected almost immediately.

I will advise the AIC in the UK about T&N policy, and shall be grateful if you will advise your asbestos information association also. Some competitors are likely to be upset, but we have to face that possibility. At least the words proposed are slightly less stringent than those now in use by TAF and the Mines.

You should note that the use of the T&N wording may not relieve you from complying with local regulations covering hazardous substance warnings in some countries (e.g. OSHA in the USA). If you have doubts on interpretation, please write to Mr. Atkinson for guidance.

Please advise me the date by which you expect to effect the changeover in your company.

H/S24
H.D.S. HARDIE