FILE NAME: Asbestos in Hair Dryers (HD)

DATE: 1979 Apr 6

DOC#: HD042

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Letter to CPSC from General Electric with Response to Order of March 29, 1979 with Sales Data

HOUSEWARES
AND AUDIO
BUSINESS
DIVISION

NERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY . . . . . 1285 BOSTON AVENUE
BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT 06602, Phone (203) 334-1012

April 6, 1979

Honorable Sayde E. Dunn
Secretary
Consumer Product Safety Commission
1111 Eighteenth Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20217

Dear Ms. Dunn:

The following response is submitted in reply to your order of March 29, 1979:

1. Q. State the name of your firm and the address of your principal place of business. Specify whether you are a manufacturer, importer and/or private labeler of portable hand-held electric hair dryers (dryers).

A. The name and address of our business is as follows:

Housewares and Audio Business Division
General Electric Company
1285 Boston Avenue
Bridgeport, Connecticut 06602

The Housewares and Audio Business Division imports (purchases) and manufactures hand-held electric hair dryers.

2. (a) Q. Are asbestos materials now being used in dryers your firm is manufacturing, importing or labeling?

(a) A. Asbestos materials are not being used in the hand-held electric hair dryers now being imported (purchased), private labeled or manufactured - some units which have been manufactured are enroute to the U.S.

(b) Q. Are these asbestos materials in the nozzle lining, wire insulation, motor insulation or other location where asbestos is exposed to the dryer's airstream?

(b) A. Not applicable.

3. (a) Q. Have asbestos materials been used in dryers your firm has manufactured, imported, or labeled within the last ten years?

(a) A. Asbestos materials have been used in hand-held hair dryers imported (purchased) and manufactured during the last ten years.

EXHIBIT J

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Honorable Sayde E. Dunn
Secretary
Consumer Product Safety Commission

3. (b) Q. Are these asbestos materials in the nozzle lining, wire insulation, motor insulation, or other location where asbestos is exposed to the dryer's airstream?

(b) A. The asbestos material was used where it was exposed to the airstream.

4. Q. To questions 2(b) and/or 3(b), please provide the following information, in the order listed, for each identifiable group of dryers.

(a) Q. Identification information (e.g. brand name, style, model number and/or production date code number).

(b) Q. Specific dates during which your firm manufactured, imported and/or labeled the dryers and the approximate number of dryers manufactured, imported and/or labeled during each date or time period.

(c) Q. Specific description of where the asbestos materials are located in the dryers (e.g. nozzle lining, wire insulation or motor insulation).

(d) Q. If you are the importer or private labeler, the name and address of the manufacturer.

A. (a), (b), (c), (d)

See Attachment "A". The model numbers shown in Attachment "A" were previously, voluntarily submitted by General Electric Company at a meeting on April 5, 1979, held by the Consumer Product Safety Commission staff to which General Electric Company was invited and attended.

5. (a) Q. Have asbestos materials been used in dryers your firm manufactured, imported or labeled more than ten years ago?

(a) A. Asbestos materials have not been used in hand-held hair dryers imported (purchased), private labeled and manufactured more than ten years ago. Although not requested by this Special Order, we are voluntarily submitting Attachment "B" covering non hand-held hair dryers manufactured by General Electric Company using asbestos materials.

6. (a) Q. Has your firm or anyone on its behalf conducted any tests of your dryers to determine whether respirable asbestos in your dryers is emitted into the airstream, or any other tests related to the use of asbestos in dryers?

(a) A. Tests have been conducted on hand-held hair dryers by the Company.

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Secretary
Consumer Product Safety Commission

6. (b) Q. Do you know of any other tests or studies regarding the use of asbestos in hair dryers?

(b) A. We are aware of other tests regarding the use of asbestos. Some examples of such tests are the Kearney Report, Underwriters Laboratories, Inc. Reports, and Technical Assessment of Safety for Hair Dryers/stylers Report, No. NBSIR 76-1112.

(c) Q. Please provide the name, address and telephone number of a person in your firm with whom the Commission staff could discuss these tests or testing of asbestos in hair dryers in general.

(c) A. The writer can be contacted regarding these tests.

7. Q. Please provide the name, title, address, and telephone number of the person filing the response to this Order.

A. The writer has been delegated as the representative of the Chief Executive Office and authorized to make claims of confidentiality on behalf of the Company.

With regard to information shown in Attachment "A" in response to question 4(b) and Attachment "B" of this letter, we claim exemption from disclosure for statements and references under the Freedom of Information Act, 5USC552(b) and 18USC1905 or regulations issued thereunder. This information is confidential, commercial information that would cause substantial financial harm if released to our competitors. It has never been released in any manner to person who was not an employee or in a confidential relationship with the Company and is not commonly known within the industry nor is it readily ascertainable by outside persons with a minimum of time and effort.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Mazzacane, Manager
Product Safety and Standards
Housewares Engineering Department

Telephone - (203) 382-3556

RWM/ls
att.

STATE OF CONNECTICUT)
COUNTY OF FAIRFIELD) ss: Bridgeport April 7, 1979

Personally appeared, ROBERT W. MAZZACANE, signer and sealer of the foregoing instrument and affirmed and declared that the statements contained herein are true to the best of his information and belief.

Notary Public

HAND HELD HAIR DRYERS

Type	Name	Model No.	Mfg. Code	Usage Code	Year of Sale to Company Customers - a)										
					1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	TOTAL
Pro Pistol	Super Turbo	PRO-11/5116-005	7	1											78	99	177
Pro Pistol	Power Turbo	PRO-10/5115-013	7	1										139	306	126	571
Pro Pistol	Super Pro	PRO-6/5112-005	3,7	1									176	373	581	249	1379
Pro Pistol	Power Pro	PRO-5/5110-013	3,7	1									100	155	133	154	542
Pro Pistol	Pro Dryer	PRO-4/5109-001	3	1									87				87
Pro Pistol	Pistol Dryer	PRO-3/5107-011	3	1								57	29				86
Pro Pistol	Super Pro	PRO-2/5108-005	3,5,6	1								184	113				297
Pro Pistol	Power Pro	PRO-1/5105-013	3,5,6	1							237	199	61				497
Power Brush	Power Brush	PB-1/5113-005	3	1									92	250	62	11	415
Styling Dryer	Styling Dryer	SD-4/5101-013	2	2						36	180	109	85				410
Styling Dryer	Styling Dryer	SD-1/2	2	2					311	241	12						564
Styling Comb	Mist Styling Comb	STC-2	4	1					35	53	38						126
Styling Comb	Styling Comb	STC-1/1A	4	1					328	167	29	—	—	—	—	—	524
TOTAL									674	497	496	549	743	917	1160	639	5675

(a-Unit Sales in 000's

A claim of confidentiality on portions of this material has been filed in the letter dated April 6, 1979 from R. W. Mazzacane to Ms. Sayde Dunn.

MANUFACTURING CODE

(1) GE, Bridgeport, CT.
(2) Yamada, Japan
(3) Simatelex, Hong Kong
(4) Izumi, Japan
(5) Tescom, Japan
(6) Koyama, Japan
(7) GE, Singapore

USAGE CODE

(1) Nozzle Lining/Heat Shield
(2) Heater Support Yarn

ATTACHMENT A

GEGIE 00018

NON HAND-HELD HAIR DRYERS

Type	Name	Model No.	Mfg. Code	Usage Code	Year of Sale to Company Customers-a) 1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	Total
Salon Dryer	Portable Professional	UH-20	1	3				35	29	20	13	9	2						108
Salon Dryer	Portable Professional	HD-55	1	3					61	93	5	4							163
Salon Dryer	Salon Style Speed Dryer	HD-30/UH31	1	3					5	5	11	12	2	1					36
Salon Dryer	Salon Style	HD-56	1	3						4	29	27	13	15					88
Salon Dryer	Salon Style	HD-54	1	3			133	82	18	1									234
Salon Dryer	Salon Style	HD-52	1	3	24	49	31	21	7	6									155
Salon Dryer	Salon Style	HD-51	1	3	62	137	97	146	86	71	105	90	67	52	4				917
Salon Dryer	Salon Style Mist	HD-63/63SS	1	4							60	41	4	4	4	-			103
Salon Dryer	Super-Speed Salon Style Mist	HD-63SS/5063-008	1	4							-	11	18	6	13	17			75
Salon Dryer	Salon Style Mist	HD-53	1	4,3			63	65	48	36									212
Bonnet Dryer	Portable Bonnet	HD-20	1	3	—	65	124	113	83	68	—	—	—	—	—	—			453
TOTAL					86	251	448	462	347	305	229	194	106	78	21	17			2544

(a-Unit Sales in 000's.

A claim of confidentiality on this material has been filed in the letter dated April 6, 1979 from R. W. Mazzacane to Ms. Sayde Dunn.

MANUFACTURING CODE

(1) GE, Bridgeport, CT

USAGE CODE

(3) Heat Shield (Fiberglass/asbestos sheet)
(4) Pad

ATTACHMENT B

GEGIE 00019