

January 20, 1965

Mr. Fred Cook, Manager
Safety Engineering Department
Bituminous Casualty Corporation
Rock Island, Illinois

Dear Mr. Cook:

Sam Thomas has just referred your letter of January 15, 1965 and copies of your two previous letters to me for reply. Please accept my apology for the delay in response to these communications but for some reason neither of your earlier letters reached this department.

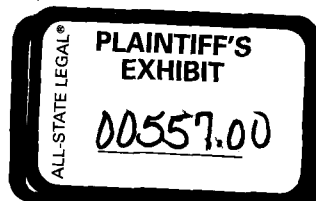
In answer to your question, the amount of asbestos in Kayle and Kayle 20 ranges from 12% to 16% of the total quantity of material in these products. This is a relatively small amount, particularly in relation to earlier forms of insulation.

As you know, the per cent of asbestos fibers in the preformed product are significant only as it might permit an estimate of the number of air-borne fibers in the working environment. Air samplings would provide this information but such data are most difficult to obtain, particularly under the variety of conditions that a construction worker usually operates. However, with respect to asbestos, I will mention a few factors that may be of interest.

The American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists publishes an annual Threshold Limit Value for numerous materials. This guide is widely accepted in the United States. The limit value for asbestos is 5,000,000 particles per cubic foot and is based upon current knowledge and experience. These values are subject to change as new data are obtained. I am sure that you are familiar with this publication so I will not go into more detail on the subject.

During a recent world-wide symposium on the toxic nature of asbestos, two interesting points were made:

1. That in the broad experience of most of the reporting doctors and scientists, neither symptoms nor pathogenesis are usually detected prior to 12 years of exposure to asbestos.



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2. That it is extremely difficult to distinguish between asbestosis and some of the other pulmonary diseases by radiographic means alone. As you know, it is not uncommon for an ailment or disease to be attributed to a current and known exposure.

The Fiberglas Corporation does not produce asbestos, but purchases it from other sources. Actually, the sales of Kayle products have been a minor portion in the field of high temperature insulations. No doubt some of the larger producers are better informed on the subject than we are and perhaps would be better able to answer your questions.

Sincerely,

F. B. Edwards
Director of Health & Hygiene

FBI:JS

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