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THE DISCOVERY COMPANY

Calidria ASBESTOS

UNION CARBIDE CORPORATION • MINING & METALS DIVISION • 17 EXECUTIVE PARK DRIVE • ATLANTA, GEORGIA • TEL: 404-633-6161

May 7, 1976

PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT tabbies UC-1592

(713) 462-5373

Mr. Wilmer Davis
Monarch Paint Company
3530 Lang
Houston, Texas 77018

Dear Wilmer:

We have had numerous requests for information on the current status of the Federal OSHA asbestos regulations, particularly as they effect the continued use of asbestos in tape joint compounds. Since you are a manufacturer of tape joint compounds, it may be of interest to you.

The Asbestos Standard promulgated on June 7, 1972, states:

> (b) Permissible exposure to airborne concentrations of asbestos fibers -- (1) Standard effective July 7, 1972. The 8 hour time-weighted average airborne concentrations of asbestos fibers to which any employee may be exposed shall not exceed five fibers, longer than 5 micrometers, per cubic centimeter of air, as determined by the method prescribed in paragraph (e) of this section. (Emphasis is added.)
>
> (2) Standard effective July 1, 1976. The 8 hour time-weighted average airborne concentrations of asbestos fibers to which any employee may be exposed shall not exceed two fibers, longer than 5 micrometers, per cubic centimeter of air, as determined by the method prescribed in paragraph (e) of this section. (Emphasis added.)

The reduction in the allowable 8 hour time-weighted average exposure from 5 fibers/cc to 2 fibers/cc that takes place on July 1, 1976, is the only change in prohibition on the use of asbestos in tape joint compounds.

On October 9, 1975, OSHA proposed a new asbestos rulemaking that has received considerable publicity. The construction industry where tape joint compounds are used is specifically excluded from the new proposal and will be considered later. Until such time as an asbestos standard for the construction industry is promulgated the existing June 7, 1972, standard with the 5 fiber/cc and 2 fiber/cc (July, 1976) allowable limits noted above will continue to apply.

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It is important to point out that even the considerably more restrictive proposed rulemaking has no suggestion whatsoever that the use of asbestos in tape joint compounds will be prohibited by OSHA.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to call.

Very truly yours,

J. E. Walsh
Sales Manager - Southern Region

JEW:ct

cc's also sent to: Bud Murphy - Murco
Bob Wright - Proko
Hunter Golliday - Welco
Bob Mueller - Ruco
Jerry Nichols - Roach
George Harlock - Pan American
Bob Favero - Georgia Pacific, Marietta
Sterling Clark - Georgia Pacific, Texas
Neil Spillane - Celotex
Wayne Harp - Kelly Moore