

FILE NAME: Eagle-Picher (EP)

DATE: 1965

DOC#: EP017

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Letters

Plaintiff's 13
(Hylotee)
JF 52



April 6, 1955

Mr. Robert Alexander
Industrial Engineering
Sun Shipbuilding & Dry Dock Co.
Chester, Pennsylvania

Dear Mr. Alexander:

Your inquiry regarding the type of insulating materials used in ship construction from 1920 to the present date, addressed to our Cincinnati office, has been passed on to me for consideration. From the type of questions you have asked, it is evident that you are concerned with their potential health hazards.

Eagle-Picher experience is limited to those forms of insulations commonly known as inorganic bonded block, organic bonded felts, blanket insulations that incorporate very small amounts of lubricants, and plastic cements. All of these materials are based upon mineral fibers or, as you have classed them, "mineral wool". Since the initial production of Eagle-Picher insulations in 1927, the composition of the basic fiber has remained about the same. Typical chemical analysis for this entire time would fall within the composition range given below:

<u>Oxides</u>	<u>Percent by Weight</u>
Silica (SiO_2)	35 to 40%
Alumina (Al_2O_3)	15 to 15%
Iron Oxide (Fe_2O_3)	20 to 25%
Calcium Oxide (CaO)	15 to 23%
Lead Oxide (PbO)	to 0.3%
Zinc Oxide (ZnO)	3 to 5%

Each of the above oxide elements contribute to our glassy fibers and at no time has it come to our attention that workers handling any of the Eagle-Picher insulations have been exposed to crystalline silica or lead compounds that could be considered to be injurious.

In addition to the basic fiber, our insulations contain minor amounts of clay, portland cement, asbestos fiber, rosin binders, and the like. Again, while each of these minor ingredients could be a health hazard if exposure were to a high concentration, such is not the case.

Robert Alexander

April 6, 1955

In common with many other forms of thermal insulation, the insulations we manufacture tend to be dusty. Some workers handling our materials find that they must acquire a tolerance for this dust which can cause discomfort in hot weather or where the insulation is applied in a confined space. In general, these dust particles are so large that respirators are not required; though it has been known that some workers are more comfortable when using this equipment.

The insulating cements that we manufacture have, in common with those of other manufacturers, the characteristic of being alkaline. Some workers are particularly sensitive to this alkalinity and have developed a dermatitis upon prolonged direct contact with the wet cements. However, through the common sense use of rubber gloves to avoid direct contact, dermatitis complaints cease.

In view of the above relative minor hazard potential for the materials we manufacture, we do not have any medical reports relative to this matter.

We appreciate having the opportunity of providing this review; and we suggest that, if you have any additional questions, you consult with our men representative, Mr. W.P. Dickworth, who has had more than ten years' practical experience in the application of Eagle-Picher materials. Mr. Dickworth can be reached at 42 West Stewart Avenue, Lansdowne, Pennsylvania.

Yours truly,

The Eagle-Picher Company
Fibers & Minerals Division

Paul L. Losse
Manager of Research - Fibers

PLL/Lp

cc: W.P. Dickworth
C.C. Morgan
J.W. Hudson
H.L. Ryolster

April 6, 1965

Mr. Robert Alexander
Industrial Engineering
Sun Shipbuilding & Dry Dock Co.
Chester, Pennsylvania

Dear Mr. Alexander:

Your inquiry regarding the type of insulating materials used in ship construction from 1920 to the present date, addressed to our Cincinnati office, has been passed on to me for consideration. From the type of questions you have asked, it is evident that you are concerned with their potential health hazards.

Eagle-Picher experience is limited to those forms of insulations commonly known as inorganic bonded block, organic bonded felts, blanket insulations that incorporate very small amounts of lubricants, and plastic cements. All of these materials are based upon mineral fibers or, as you have classed them, "mineral wool". Since the initial production of Eagle-Picher insulations in 1927, the composition of the basic fiber has remained about the same. Typical chemical analysis for this entire time would fall within the composition range given below:

<u>Oxides</u>	<u>Percent by Weight</u>
Silica (SiO_2)	35 to 40%
Alumina (Al_2O_3)	10 to 15%
Iron Oxide (FeO)	20 to 25%
Calcium Oxide (CaO)	15 to 23%
Lead Oxide (PbO)	to 0.2%
Zinc Oxide (ZnO)	3 to 5%

Each of the above oxide elements contribute to our glassy fibers and at no time has it come to our attention that workers handling any of the Eagle-Picher insulations have been exposed to crystalline silica or lead compounds that could be considered to be injurious.

In addition to the basic fiber, our insulations contain minor amounts of clay, portland cement, asbestos fiber, resin binders, and the like. Again, while each of these added ingredients could be a health hazard if exposure were to a high concentration, such is not the case.