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GF-1560

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NON-ASBESTOS GASKETING DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The status of the asbestos-free gasketing project is as follows:

Laboratory handsheet work continues to be encouraging. The latest preferred formula is:

| Ingredient | % |
|---|---|
| Mineral Wool Fiber | 30 |
| Diatomaceous Earth | 40 |
| Sulphite Pulp | 10 |
| NBR Latex | 20 |

The special mineral wool, "New Fiber," is purchased from Rockwool AB in Sweden, and there has been a delay in their shipment. It is expected by mid August; however, and plans are to have made a production trial by September 1.

If the run is successful, samples will be submitted to Victor and Fel-Pro, who have expressed a desire to cooperate in evaluation of asbestos-free gasketings. Secrecy agreements for the two companies have already been requested. A patent attorney is in the process of drafting applications.

It normally requires about one month for their Materials R&D to complete an evaluation. If their findings are favorable, testing by the Engineering laboratory (full scale engine, etc.) will require about two months. The earliest date for approval, therefore, is expected to be in December.

In the interim period, formulas with other binders and densification procedures will be studied. If the basic formula works, the system should apply to the entire line.

Recently, R&D representatives with GAF Marketing personnel visited the technical departments of four major gasket customers. In all instances they were interested in evaluation of any non-asbestos

product we wished to submit; however, none expressed an urgency to convert in the near term. The impression was gained that maybe in five years it would be important to have a substitute.

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