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R. M. Bateman, Esq.,
Turners Asbestos Cement Co. Ltd.,
Trafford Park, Manchester, 17.

JLC/MAJ

26th November 1958.

Dear Mr. Bateman,

Draft Shipbuilding Regulations

Use of Power Driven Saws in Shipyards

I send you herewith copy of a letter which I received yesterday from the Ministry of Labour and National Service, from which you will see that the Ministry are considering imposing an obligation to wear respirators in the case of people who cut material containing asbestos by means of power driven saws in the shipbuilding industry.

I spoke to Mr. Alderson about this on the telephone yesterday when he told me that N.I.Co. would not in fact be concerned, since they do not use power driven saws in the shipyards, and he said that he was inclined to feel that it is the cutting of products like Marinite (or other insulating or decorative sheets used on board ship) by power driven saws which the Ministry are worrying about; in consequence, he and I thought it possible that T.A.C.Co. may be indirectly concerned to some degree as suppliers of Wallboard or Asbestos Wood, and that is why I am writing to you.

I know nothing about the volume or importance of the sales of any of your products containing asbestos for use on board ship, but I thought it at least worth while telling you about this proposed new regulation. I anticipate that I shall be replying to the Ministry after I have heard from Washington, merely saying that N.I.Co. have no objection to the proposed regulation since they do not use power driven saws for the purpose indicated. Personally I rather doubt whether we could say anything helpful so far as any T.A.C.Co. asbestos products used in shipbuilding are concerned, and you may well think that it would be a pity to draw attention specifically to any of your products.

I will, of course, delay replying to the Ministry until after I have heard from you.

Yours faithfully,

J.L.C.

Enc.