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Rochdale

Mr. J. M. Wilkinson,
Newcastle Office.

ACM/DC
To: JMW
Copy: SM/SHs

JMW/MA

CONFIDENTIAL

21st February 1967.

Asbestos Insulation Cloth

I.C.I. Ltd.

Many thanks for your report of February 16th, which largely confirms information which we have had from other parts of the I.C.I. Organization.

It would seem, at any rate for the moment, as if most of T.B.A.'s business with I.C.I. in asbestos materials, direct and through Witty & Wyatt, is not at risk as most of it is not used directly for insulation work. I will see that Mr. Edmonds and Witty & Wyatt are advised of this.

We have also noted that I.C.I. could be interested in treated cloths which we have produced on an experimental basis.

As far as glass cloth is concerned, I have certainly no wish to see Witty & Wyatt handling this, nor for that matter aluminised cloth, but do not take any action until you hear further from us as I want to find out what Mr. Edmonds has discussed with Witty & Wyatt.

A. C. Mann.

TURNER BROTHERS ASBESTOS COMPANY LTD.

Office of Origin	To
[illegible]	[illegible]

Ref:- JHS/MA.

Your Ref:- [illegible]

CONFIDENTIAL.

16th February, 1967.

Thank you for your memo of the 26th January. I have now seen Mr. A. W. Elmes at I.C.I. Billingham. His official position is Head of the Non-Metallic Materials Section of the I.C.I. Tees-side Materials Group, whose function is to test and evaluate, approve and recommend all non-metallic materials which are used in any of the I.C.I. plants on Tees-side.

He advised that they had conducted an investigation into the use of asbestos insulation materials at the instigation of their medical advisors and the conclusions which they had now reached were that where it is technically or economically feasible, insulation materials which do not contain asbestos should be used. Mr. Elmes stressed that there was no ban on the use of asbestos and they will continue to use it wherever circumstances demand but as you suggest in your letter they will also continue to search for alternatives, particularly for use on new plant and in new buildings where they will endeavour to achieve asbestos-free areas. One of the main reasons for this is that whilst their medical advisors consider the present precautions which they take when handling asbestos materials (i.e. the wearing of masks and the issue of free overalls, which are laundered by the Company) to be satisfactory, these apply only to lagging personnel and whilst a job is in progress there are almost invariably other tradesmen or process workers in the vicinity who do not have this protection and to provide it in respect of the whole of the staff of the plant would not be feasible.

Mr. Elmes confirmed the information given by Darlington Insulation Co. that the usage of asbestos cloth on insulation work at any of the I.C.I. plants is small, consisting mainly of expansion joints in the hard setting and mattresses. As regards the latter, I.C.I., in pursuance of their policy, endeavour to use, where possible, the wired type of mattress with mineral wool or glassfibre filling with possibly glass cloth on the outer surface. Where the temperature does not permit this they use aluminised asbestos cloth.

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