

FILE NAME: Cape Asbestos (CAPE)

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Cape Asbestos

Cape was one of the early members of the Asbestos Information Association/North America, North American Asbestos (NAA) was listed as a member as of January 1972. Writing to AIA on Dec. 18, 1973, NAA enclosed a Memorandum from Cape Asbestos Company on Hazards to Health Associated with Crocidolite and Amosite Asbestos. This included 2.3.5 saying "considerable efforts" had been made to investigate the association between crocidolite exposure and mesothelioma in the N.W. Cape. "An extensive survey by the Pneumoconiosis Research Unit throughout the N.W. Cape in 1961/1962 did not reveal new cases..."

AIA/NA was a PR and lobbying group set up in the US by Johns-Manville at the end of 1970, similar to the Asbestosis Information Council set up by Cape and T&N in the UK in 1967. By late 1971, the global asbestos industry was feeling growing public pressure in some countries and gathered to prepare for that by forming AIC-type groups everywhere. They held a conference (att.) wherein the role of AIA/NA was outlined on pp 61-63. The conference chairman (MF Howe) concluded by noting the role Asbestosis Research Council played in blunting the UK asbestos regs published in 1969: Without A.R.C., and remember this is an industry-created body, the British Regulations would have been far more severe."

So these are additional documents relating to Cape's contribution to the asbestos disease pandemic still very much with us worldwide.

6/26/24