

TURNER & NEWALL LIMITEDExtracts from Directors' Minutes re Asbestosis.Minute No.

706. 2nd May, 1930. Dust in Asbestos Industry.

Mr. S. Turner called attention to the recent Home Office Report on their enquiry into the conditions in this connection, and it was agreed that Secretarial Department be requested to circulate copies of this report to all members of the Board.

800. 17th July, 1930. Dust in Asbestos Industry.

Mr. S. Turner reported that the Deputy Chief Factory Inspector had visited Rochdale and had indicated that the Home Office are about to establish certain regulations for the minimising of dust in the Asbestos Industry. He indicated that the Committee which is to draw up these regulations has been constituted, and this Company is represented thereon. This was noted and approved.

874. 25th September, 1930. Dust in Asbestos Industry.

Mr. Carter reported that as a result of recent legislation whereby the Asbestos industry becomes a scheduled industry, an intimation has been received from the Insurance Company carrying the Workmen's Compensation Risk, that additional premium will be required. This was noted and Mr. Carter indicated that he will report further when negotiations with the Insurance Company on this question have been completed.

922. 30th October, 1930. Dust in Asbestos Industry - Doctor's Summary.

Mr. S. Turner called attention to the report of the Medical Officer on this subject and indicated that this shows that five years or less exposure to Asbestos Dust has no effect on the lungs.

It was suggested that in order to minimise possible cases of Asbestosis, arrangements should be made by all Companies not to leave any employee on work which is exposed to Asbestos dust for a longer period than five years. It was, however, pointed out that this arrangement would cause considerable difficulty to the Companies concerned, and it was therefore agreed to leave this question over until next month for decision, and that meantime the Textile Companies concerned be requested to submit a scheme for limiting such exposure.

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Minute No.

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25th June, 1931. Asbestosis.

The Joint Secretary reported that examination of the Compensation, Medical Arrangements and Medical Fees Schemes made by the Home Secretary under the Workmen's Compensation Sickness and Asbestosis Act 1930, show that a very large contingent liability exists in connection therewith, and that enquiries made with regard to the possibility of insuring against this risk show that it is not at present possible to insure owing to the entire lack of experience of the risk. He indicated, however, that it has been ascertained that the experience of Insurance Companies who have insured against the Workmen's Compensation Risk in Sickness has been that the cost is at least £7.10. 0d per cent of the wages of the men affected. In view, therefore, of the potential seriousness of this liability it was resolved as follows:-

1. That a central Insurance Fund be established by Turner and Newall Limited from which all liabilities incurred by any Associated Company under these schemes shall be met.
2. That all Associated Companies shall pay to Turner and Newall Limited at quarterly intervals an amount equal to £7.10. 0d per cent on the wages paid during the previous quarter to employees who come within the scope of the Compensation Scheme.
3. That Turner and Newall Limited Head Office shall arrange with an Insurance Company to manage this internal Insurance scheme on their behalf, and shall agree with them an annual fee for such management.
4. That all Associated Companies shall forthwith include in their costs an amount sufficient to cover the cost of their contribution to the Turner and Newall Limited Insurance Fund under (2).
5. That the contributions to be made by Associated Companies to the Turner and Newall Limited Insurance Fund shall be computed on the affected wages paid on and after the 1st June 1931.
6. That the above arrangements shall not apply to Raybestos-Belaco Limited, who shall make such independent arrangements as the Directors of that Company may deem desirable to cover any liability accruing to that Company under these schemes.

The Joint Secretary was authorised to advise all Companies of this decision.

Minute No.

1225. 23rd July, 1931. Asbestosis Schemes.

Mr. H. R. Turner reported that Ferodo Limited have been in touch with the Home Office with regard to the interpretation of the Compensation Scheme as affecting their employees, and have received intimation to the effect that the Schemes were drafted with the object of excluding the manufacture of Brake Lining, but owing to an error in drafting this had not wholly been achieved. It was agreed that Ferodo Limited should continue to maintain contact with the Home Office for the moment, but that as soon as the discussions now in progress are completed, the whole question shall be handled on behalf of all Associated Companies by Turner and Newall Limited Head Office.

The Joint Secretary reported that as a result of the discussions which Mr. R. H. Turner has had with Dr. Sutherland, the Chief Officer of the Medical Board appointed under the Medical Arrangements Scheme, it now appears probable that insulation coverers will be excluded from the terms of the Medical Arrangements Scheme, although they will be subject to the Compensation Scheme. Under these circumstances, it was agreed that before taking any further steps with regard to the establishment of a compensation fund etc. a further meeting of representatives of all interested Companies should be convened by Turner and Newall Limited Head Office at which the up-to-date position shall be explained and the basis of a case shall be prepared for making application to the Home Office for certain amendments in the Schemes, as at present made.

1272. 24th September, 1931. Asbestosis Scheme.

Mr. Carter reported that a meeting of representatives of the interested Companies has been convened to be held at this Company's offices in Rochdale on the 6th October 1931, at which it is hoped that the position will be made a little clearer. Meantime, Mr. Carter indicated one claim made against J. W. Roberts Limited has been admitted by that Company, and compensation will have to be paid in due course.

1301. 29th October 1931. Asbestosis Committee.

It was agreed that it is desirable that there should be a permanent committee appointed by this Board to keep in touch with all developments on the question of Asbestosis, and to provide the necessary information on which any claim for modification of the various schemes under the Silicosis and Asbestosis Act of 1931 may be based.

It was, therefore, resolved that Messrs. R. H. Turner, P. G. Kenyon, J. A. Cann, G. Wilson and W. W. F. Shepherd, be and are hereby appointed as a permanent Asbestosis Committee to meet quarterly and circulate reports of their proceedings to all concerned.