

FILE NAME: Asbestos Sacks and Bags (ASB)

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TRANSPORT & GENERAL WORKERS UNION
REGISTERED TRADE UNION 1919
REGISTERED OFFICES,
Transport House, Smith Square,
WESTMINSTER,
LONDON. S.W.1.
General Secretary
FRANK COUSINS
Asst. Gen. Secretary
H. R. NICHOLAS, O.B.E.
CHIEF OFFICE
COMMUNICATION
PLEASE QUOTE
174/111/117/A

Ministry of Labour
St James's Square, London, S.W.1
Baynards House,
1-13 Chepstow Place,
Westbourne Grove, LONDON, W.2.
27th October, 1965.

29th October, 1965.

Dr. Murray,
Social Insurance Department,
Trades Union Congress,
Congress House,
111 Russell Street,
C.I.

Dear Dr. Murray,

Asbestos - London Docks

I thought you might be interested to see the attached copy letter today received from the Ministry of Labour.

Yours sincerely,
J. O'Leary
NATIONAL SECRETARY,
Docks Group.

their investigations into the in hand following complaints in sel in the London docks. The then obtained medical advice from Middlesex Hospital, to the effect eded to wear a mask in order to f vacuum suction to remove any The Inspectorate do not disagree probably necessary in the on, as asbestos was being unloaded ackaging are used, the described below, is that masks are to maintain satisfactory conditions

appreciated for many years. The trolling Regulations since 1931. os or materials containing the use of such materials are rate. The Inspectorate knows, employment in the docks unloading e been diagnosed by the

ionally exposed to asbestos, but ere such as to make the development length of exposure, a series of os has now been undertaken by the d be understood that the signifi- apable of penetrating to the to the amount visible to the

the outcome of these tests is to indicate that the amount of air-borne dust of respirable size has been below the published upper limit of safety where hessian sacks with an impervious lining or laminated paper bags or other impervious bags have been in use and it has also been below the limit when unlined hessian sacks were used and a slow rate of working has been in operation. The limit has been exceeded where unlined hessian sacks were used and the rate of working was normal. The Inspectorate's opinion is that with the normal intermittent exposure likely to be experienced by dockers, the risk of a docker developing clinically recognisable asbestosis is slight, provided impervious sacks are used. As they are unlikely to develop asbestosis, then they are no more liable to develop a lung cancer than the rest of the population.

/Discussions