

FILE NAME: Insulation Contractors & Distributors (ICD)

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DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Letter to WA Dept of Labor from Tacoma Asbestos Co. RE Comments on Program in Cleanup of Airborne Asbestos Fibers



VE 8-1101 (Seattle)

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January 22, 1973

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DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
OSHA AREA OFFICE

JAN 23 1973

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

Mr. Carl Mangold
Department of Labor
Occupational Safety & Health Administration
1908 Smith Tower
506 Second Avenue
Seattle, Washington 98104

Dear Sir:

Program in Cleanup of Airborne Asbestos Fibers - Cements:

In June of 1971 we started to phase out all Asbestos Cements and Fibers. We went from 85% Magnesia Cement, Calcium Silicate Cement (Caltamp) and Johns-Manville #352 Short Fiber, to Mineral Cements, and by June of 1972 we eliminated all of these items and went to a straight Mineral fiber cement for fittings and insulation, such as Weber 48 Cements and Ryder Industries LeKote Cements and by June 1972 Fiberboard Paper Company's #127 Cement formulated out of Mineral Fiber and Pakco's Caltamp Cement, asbestos free.

Pipe Covering:

All Asbestos Paper Covering such as Aircell was phased out in early 1968 and Fiberglass Pipe Insulation manufactured by Johns-Manville, Gustin-Bacon and Owens Corning Fiberglas were substituted and aircell is nowhere now used in our industry in the Northwest.

Early in 1971 we used and substituted fiberglass on all jobs where awarding agencies would approve it in lieu of 85% Magnesia and Calcium Silicate. Where we could not get approval our hi-temperature work continued with Thermobestos, Kaylo and Caltamp, brand names for Calcium Silicates.

The big break thru in asbestos free Calcium Silicates came in Spring of 1972 when the Fiberboard Paper Co. perfected their calcium silicate pipe insulation "Caltamp" and they started manufacturing Caltamp Asbestos Free and have continued since then. All of our calcium silicates with asbestos fiber were put in front of the piles and sold and used and at the present writing we have less than 30 cartons of material possessing asbestos fiber.

By June of 1973 we will have no material in Pipe Insulation with asbestos fiber in our warehouses or on jobsites.

We understand that Kaylo and Thermobestos, two other name brands in the field, are now asbestos free.

Asbestos Paper, Asbestos Millboard, Asbestos Tapes and Wickings were phased out in Sept. of 1972 and are no longer part of our business. This item was usually sold to hardware stores, shipyards, welding supply houses and sheet metal fabricators in the heating business.

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Asbestos Pads and Blankets for Turbines, Exhaust Piping and Portable Insulation Pads for High Temperature:

We have eliminated the use of Amosite Blanket insulation completely and have substituted a hi temperature refractory base material, mineral in nature. Brand names: Certafelt and Tempmat. Blankets are now made with this ceramic type material for hi temperature over 750°. Under 750°, Owens-Corning hi temperature fiberglass is used.

The inside of our blankets are now Inconel Stainless Steel Mesh and the outside cover, fiberglass, for temperature under 750° and American Asbestos Textile Corp. asbestos treated cloth Thermalon.

Enclosed herewith is copy of American's letter and product sheet on Thermalon and King Fiber Glass Corp. data on their fiberglass lagging cloth.

We, in the insulation contracting field, feel that by the end of 1973 the word "asbestos" will disappear from our vocabulary as we plan and hope asbestos will be no part of our business.

Yours very truly,

TACOMA ASBESTOS CO.


George Macovitch,
President

CB:rh
Inc.

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