Research and Development Department
April, 1974

1. Non Asbestos Profax

a. Production. No major technical problems were experienced during the month. However, misformulations on the pulper platform are still frequent.
b. Experimentations. During the month, no experiments were allowed due to PVAC crisis and machine capacity.

2. Non Asbestos Proflex Boards (EP 5484)

a. Production. EP 5484 is not yet approved as a production recipe.
b. Experimentations. One pallet of 554 (boards) were produced successfully on the Mark III. Boards are very similar in properties to Proflex G_3. Field tests are to be conducted shortly.

During the experiment, we tried increased X 3580 in order to get a smoother surface. This part of the test was not successful because the X 3580 dosage was higher than recipe acceptance. We had experienced dewatering problems; the water content in green state increased from 15-20% to 45-50%. However, the problem was cured by adding kerosene. We intend to look closer to kerosene properties concerning dewatering improvement.

3. Non Asbestos Proflex (EP 5492)

a. Production. EP 5492 is not yet approved as a production recipe.
b. Experimentations.
1. Seal-On Rings:
a. Standard Tool: Have produced 55 sets using the standard tool #491 without any technical problems. After that, heavy cavitations were experienced on one side of the "horseshoe" and the experiment was stopped. There are many explanations for that phenomena as:

1. Recipe misformulation on the pulper platform. The experiment was supervised by our department people. (Raw materials, solids content).
2. Due to the slurry's solids content (22-25%), uncontrollable currents occurred in the forming tank.
3. "Washing out" phenomena during the blow back phase due to the recipe porosity.

The 55 sets obtained are acceptable from Q/C standpoint. The products are softer, as required. We should try again, and probably use a higher solids content.

b. Injection forming tool: The new injection forming tool was successfully used on the Mark IV machine. The recipe used was EP 5492 and approximately ninety 470 rings were produced. The rings are acceptable from Q/C standpoint and were partially tested successfully in the field.

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