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Asbestos Trade Items



Asbestos is employed in the construction of flexible tubing for petrol, made according to Patent No. 376,111, recently granted to H. O. N. Shaw, 112, Wardour Street, London, and Petro-Flex Tubing Co., Ltd., St. Albans Road, Watford. The tube comprises a lining *c* of one or more layers of animal gut or intestine, wrapped or drawn over an internal helical wire armouring *b*, a covering *d* of asbestos yarn closely woven or braided upon the said lining, an armouring *e* of helically-wound wire over the asbestos, and a smooth, outer covering *f* of woven or braided tinned copper wire. The wires *b*, *e*, which may also be of tinned copper, are preferably arranged so that the coils of one alternate with the coils of the other and cause intimate contact between the asbestos covering *d* and the gut lining *c*. The tube may be formed upon a mandrel *a*, and the gut is preferably used in a wet condition after being treated with glycerine.

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Certificate Required for Certain Asbestos Goods

Memorandum No. 597, issued on 3rd December by the Dominion Department of National Revenue, states that a certificate in the following form is required to be written, printed or stamped on the face or back of invoices covering goods for entry into Canada under the British Preferential Tariff under Tariff Item 312a:—

"I,, an official of..... (name of company), the exporters of the asbestos and/or manufacturers thereof included in this invoice, have the means of 'knowing' and do hereby certify that the asbestos contained therein is made from crude asbestos wholly of British Empire origin, and that I am duly authorised to make and sign this certificate.

(Signed).....

Dated, at
this day of.....
19.....

Tariff Item 312a, referred to above, reads as follows:—

"Asbestos in any form other than crude, and all manufactures thereof, when made from crude asbestos of Empire origin—British Preferential Tariff, Free; Intermediate Tariff, 22½% *ad valorem*, and General Tariff 25% *ad valorem*."

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The Toll of Asbestosis

Several articles on asbestosis have recently appeared in the Medical Journals. One of these (in the *Lancet* of 1st October, 1932, pp. 954, 956) is noteworthy as strengthening the case for excluding young girls from occupation in the Asbestos Industry. In this the authors are W. B. Wood and S. R. Gloyne) give particulars of a series of 57 cases of pulmonary asbestosis, twelve out of these 57 cases showed evidence of pulmonary tuberculosis at a post-mortem examination of four who died, evidence of obsolescent tuberculosis was found in two, and of active tuberculosis in the other two. Of the non-fatal cases, seven had tubercle bacilli in the sputum, and the eighth had a well-marked apical cavity. The total number of females with pulmonary asbestosis was 39, nine of whom had active tuberculosis; the total number of males was 18, of whom only one had active

tuberculosis. Of the nine females with active tuberculosis, one had worked for three months picking up bobbins where she was not exposed to dust; then she had discontinued work for 18 months, and returned for a further three months to spinning and weaving. One had had 15 months' exposure, and the remaining seven periods varying from 4 to 13 years. The male patient had had seven years' exposure.

* * * * *

The authors suggest that since eight of the total 39 cases of females with pulmonary asbestosis were young girls between the ages of 18 and 21, and since it is well known that adolescent and young adult females are specially susceptible to pulmonary tuberculosis, any occupation which exposes the lungs to risk of damage at this period of life is undesirable. Draft Regulations have now been issued by the Home Office excluding "young persons" (i.e., those under 18 years of age) from the industry.

The Marking of Imported Rubber Boots and Shoes

A Board of Trade Announcement

The Board of Trade announce that, in pursuance of the powers conferred upon them by Section 3 of the Merchandise Marks Act, 1926, they have given a Direction, namely, the Merchandise Marks (Imported Goods) Exemption Direction (No. 1), 1933, in regard to the Merchandise Marks (Imported Goods) No. 3 Order, 1932.

This order requires imported boots, shoes and slippers made of rubber or with rubber soles; rubber overshoes, with or without heels; and rubber footholds, to bear an indication or origin applied to each article by means of letters in relief impressed prior to vulcanization.

The Direction mentioned above allows goods which were imported before the 9th July, 1932, and are sold or exposed for sale before the 1st January, 1934, to be marked in the following manner:—

(1) All classes of goods except rubber boots.—Stamped in a contrasting colour on the shank or heel, or on the insole.

(2) Rubber boots.—Stamped in a contrasting colour on the shank or heel, or on a label securely attached to each boot.

The Board have referred to the Standing Committee appointed by them under the Act for consideration the question whether the Order-in-Council should be amended either in accordance with the terms of the Direction which they have given, or otherwise in respect of the goods in question.

Representatives of any interests substantially affected by the above matter, who desire to make representations to the Committee, are requested to communicate with the Secretary, Mr. E. W. Reardon, at the Board of Trade Offices, Great George Street, London, S.W.1, as early as possible, and in any case not later than the 28th January, 1933.

The Direction is being published, and copies may shortly be purchased either directly from His Majesty's Stationery Office at the following addresses:—Adastral House, Kingsway, W.C.2; 120, George Street, Edinburgh; York Street, Manchester; 1, St. Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff; 15, Donegall Square West, Belfast; or through any bookseller.