

TEXTILE FIBERS  
ASBESTOS DUST SEMINAR OF TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1973

The current status of asbestos-free insulating materials continues to be brighter, but the progress from your last meeting, in July, 1972, has been slow and painful.

You may recall that at the time of the previous meeting we had only two calcium silicate insulations that were asbestos-free and only one of those was satisfactory for use on austenitic stainless steel.

At this time, fortunately, all of the calcium silicates we have listed in Engineering Standards SN100M are asbestos-free.

There are five brands of Code 102, the uninhibited calcium silicate, and two brands which are approved for Code 102.1 for use on austenitic stainless steel.

There are two more brands that will be added to the inhibited calcium silicate listings under Code 102.1 by the end of this year. They are Johns-Manville's Thermo-12 and B&B Insulation, Inc's. "Pamsil", which is a Du Pont development.

This will help us considerably in getting back to our previous principle of using only the inhibited brands for all applications to avoid field mix-ups.

At the time of the last meeting, I was pushing a high quality mineral wool by the U. S. Gypsum Co., known as K-fac. This can be inhibited by the fabricator by dipping it in sodium silicate solution.

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It seems that this material took on so strong in the asbestos-free calcium silicate shortage, that U. S. Gypsum had to turn off their their industrial thermal insulation program. They were way oversold.

U. S. Gypsum is still supplying all the needs of their first two fabricators, Atlas Insulation of Pittsburgh, Pa. and Starr-Davis of Greenboro, N.C.; but they have stopped promotion to any other fabricators.

I'd like to mention here that all of the mineral wool brands listed in Du Pont's Codes 114 and 114.1 are asbestos free.

Johns-Manville still does not have an asbestos-free substitute for their Marinite, which is Du Pont's Code 130, Asbestos Board, and they hold no hope for one in the foreseeable future. There are no other manufacturers products which even approach Marinites physical characteristics.

From Du Pont's standpoint however, there are no needs where Marinite is the only material that will suit. We can and are engineering around this material.

All of the Insulating Cements, Code 502, and Insulating and Finishing Cements, Code 502.1 listed in Engineering Standards are asbestos free.

Our single greatest asbestos material problem at this time is finding an equivalent substitute for woven asbestos or "A" cloth.

Some of your people have been helping the Thermal Insulation Standards  
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Subcommittee evaluate a product known as "Porterlag" by the H. K. Porter Company. In the trade, it is known as a rewettable glass cloth. It is a glass cloth that is coated with a rewettable adhesive by the manufacturer (I have a small fitting cover that is covered with Porterlag No. 205, a 15 ounce treated glass cloth). These rewettable cloths must be protected from moisture or the adhesive will soften and come loose.

This material is useable with hot side temperature to 800°F.

It is certainly not equivalent in strength or abuse resistance to "A" cloth, but where plant rulings eliminate the use of asbestos-bearing materials it is our best alternative so far.

In summary, we are in good shape for asbestos-free insulations and accessories with the exception of woven asbestos cloth and asbestos listing tape.

George J. Lang/blm  
September 12, 1973

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