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See SA file



EVERITE
Fibre-cement
Veselsement

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23 September 1983

Mr B Castleman
1722 Linden Avenue
BALTIMORE, MD 21217

Dear Mr Castleman

Thank you for your letter of August 23. My secretary forwarded it to my vacation address. Thus my late response.

Without detailed reference material here my response as complete as possible:

1. The tools you mention (disc cutter, bandsaw etc.) have been developed by the former Asbest Institut in Neuss (Germany) in close collaboration with the tools manufacturers. They were then tested by the German Central Association of Industrial Injuries Insurance Institute (Berufsgenossenschaft) and as a consequence were given governmental approval (Department of Labor).

The tools have been developed with two main criteria, namely to comply to safety standards without a dust extraction system and without the need for respirator masks.

- 2.a) Regarding lung cancer and the workmen's compensation act I have to take my information from a press cutting my secretary sent me (Rand Daily Mail August 30). The Medical Bureau of Occupational Diseases has compensated asbestos miners for lung cancer for approximately 20 years.
- b) As regards Everite's policy in regard to compensation, Everite employees are covered by Workmen's Compensation (up to a certain income), group life and a compulsory pension scheme. Our policy is to ensure that any employee disabled by an occupational disease receives an income comparable to his former wage/salary. This policy extends proportionately to his widow and minor children in the event of a death due to occupational disease.
3. When the Everite plant was closed in Port Elizabeth, all employees who had not been x-rayed in the past 12 months, were freshly x-rayed. All were requested to report back in March 1984 for a further check-up. Most of these employees live in the Port Elizabeth region.