

M. J. CAPRIO

M E M O R A N D U M

PROCUREMENT DEPARTMENT - 19

1981 MARCH 30

RE: JOHNS-MANVILLE'S MARINITE PRODUCTS

With the exception of the critical header applications for both HDC and FDC ingot operations, Johns-Manville's (J.M.) asbestos-free Marinite-C board should replace the asbestos Molten Metal Marinite.

By means of this letter we are advising all plants to replace asbestos Molten Metal Marinite (S/N 094-210-xxxx) with asbestos free Marinite-C (S/N 094-218-xxxx) by 1981 September 01. The applications for Marinite-C include molten metal transfer troughs, baffles, basins, dams and floating skimmers. J-M's asbestos-free Marinite-I is not recommended for molten aluminum operations. In certain applications, an acceptable alternate for Marinite-C is Pyrotek's asbestos-free Pyrotherm B-3 manufactured by Cape Boards of England. Any questions on the acceptance of this board should be directed to Mrs. Virginia Hammersmith at ATC or the writer. If all things are equal, we favor the use of J-M's domestically produced Marinite-C.

An asbestos-free material for the critical HDC and FDC header applications has yet to be developed for commercial use. Until this product is available, we will continue to use asbestos Header Grade Molten Metal Marinite, (S/N 094-220-xxxx). To insure continued availability of the header grade material, we request your estimated usage through 1982 June 30. In this manner J-M can be advised of our needs and insure adequate supplies of the S11-65 amosite fiber. Your cooperation in forwarding the estimated usage for Header Grade Molten Metal Marinite to my attention by 1981 April 30 will be appreciated.

If there are any questions on this matter, please contact me directly.

M. J. CAPRIO

MJC:gih

PLAINTIFF'S
EXHIBIT
AL-1416

APC 003092

DISTRIBUTION

J.D. Boyce - ATC
W.K. Benefield - Badin
T.W. Lee - Davenport
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H.L. Gallop - Lebanon
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C.J. Cox - 3 WPH
A.J. Sartschev - 3 WPH
V.L. Hammersmith - ATC-B
~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

RECEIVED
MAR 31 1981
INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE

VIRGINIA L. HAMMERSMITH
CHEMICALS AND CERAMICS DIVISION
ALCOA TECHNICAL CENTER - B

CC: E.E. Rumbach
MR. ELWIN L. ROOY
PITTSBURGH - 23

1981 JUNE 15

RE: ASBESTOS REPLACEMENT - MOLTEN METAL MARINITE

Alcoa's ongoing policy for several years now has been "to actively replace any asbestos containing material wherever possible". As we are all aware, the largest usage of such materials by Alcoa has still been with asbestos containing molten metal marinite manufactured by John's Manville at their Billerica, Massachusetts, plant. For the past few years, regular grade asbestos marinite has been no more than 5% of their total business, with the prime type, header grade molten metal marinite, no more than 2%. Certainly, it is in both John's Manville's and Alcoa's interest to remove these from their product line and, more specifically, to replace the materials with an asbestos-free type prior to any government edict.

Comparable performance of their new Marinite C (a calcium silicate fiberglass reinforced refractory board) to the regular grade molten metal marinite is certainly welcomed by some of our ingot operations. However, it has been brought to my attention that some locations are exceedingly slow to recognize a need to change quickly and to implement the new material across the board.

OSHA maximum limitations presently are no more than 2 fibers/cc averaged over an eight hour period without being in violation. The OSHA action level maximum of 0.1 fiber/cc, requires that we monitor the persons exposed for physical symptoms of lung damage and disease. In the case of our plants and most exposures, the short term limit is a maximum of 10 fibers/cc air over a 15 minute period. Most countries have reduced this limit much further. How we, as a corporation, can afford this slowness of implementation is questionable. The perogative of such a statement doesn't rest with the writer.

Many people feel that OSHA, Alcoa safety, and Alcoa Research are overly concerned and, hence, they have turned their ears and eyes away from citing violations such as the continuing use of asbestos materials when an alternative is available and to assume that "small" infractions (drilling, sanding, air hammer removal, etc.) should go unnoticed. Also, the notion is unfounded that as long as we, as a corporation, are not actively machining the material, the asbestos fibers are tied up in the matrix and pose no health hazard. Even transporting a small item of asbestos marinite can release surface fibers, especially in the lengths most often associated with future lung disease. Certainly, I and other workers do not appreciate the fact that we are all exposed unknowingly due



ALCOA

APC 003094

Mr. Elwin L. Rooy
1981 June 15
Page 2

has the so-
of replacement
given their silicon
boxes been considered

What hence is
legal issue
pretend not issue
what?

to these practices. Hence, I do not feel personally that removal and proper disposal of the asbestos containing marinite, which can be replaced with a more safe material in our operations, is any longer "only a moral issue" and to be taken lightly.

Items of premium grade asbestos marinite which should temporarily be exempt due to the unsuitability of the asbestos-free grade are really limited to only a few and necessarily must be handled very cautiously:

- Does the
chemical &
ceramics group
issue exemptions?
1. Sheet Ingot Headers (Tennessee South and Warrick)
 2. Hunter Caster Tips (Badin)
 3. Small round HDC Headers (Badin)
 4. Tool and Jig Plate Headers (Vernon)

Is this by
first or
knowledge
of exposure
conditions
under use

The pursuit of our evaluations of the newer Marinite H and Pyrotek T-12 takes on increasing importance in the removal of those few items from the list also.

However, your assistance and insight as to how we, as a corporation, can more swiftly attack the implementation of the suitable asbestos-free materials at all locations would certainly benefit the program. Certainly, the seriousness of curtailing the purchase of marinite effective September 1 has not penetrated deep enough yet into operations and needs to be addressed.

Virginia L. Hammersmith
VIRGINIA L. HAMMERSMITH

VLH:dlw

cc: ID, ATC-D
T. L. Francis/File 8.140, ATC-B
Ceramic Engineers, ATC-B
K. E. Buchovecky, ATC-B
J. R. Stemler, ATC-C
R. E. Miller, ATC-B
H. Sakoian, Tennessee South
H. E. Ellis, Badin
R. L. Parsons/K. P. Karsten, Warrick/
A. L. Piecka, Vernon
J. A. Thompson, Wenatchee
M. J. Caprio, Pittsburgh-19
H. G. Reavis, Pittsburgh-23

where did this
magic date come
from?

By copy of this memo are RLP & KPK being accused, or is Warrick, of taking asbestos control lightly? As the two administrators during Warrick's history perhaps she should have discussed this subject with us first before issuing this blanket indictment.

APC 003095