

FILE NAME: .ŕŕ ō .lw5ú

DATE: мфты b2Ŏ мс

DOC#: .lw5лп

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: [ŜúúŜŕ ũ2 ũKŜ 9Ŕŕú2ŕ



REPLY TO: EAST WALPOLE, MA 02032

TEL: 617-668-2500

November 16, 1978

To: the Editor
Plastics Design Forum
11120 E. 17th Avenue
Denver, Colorado 80231

Gentlemen:

Your discussions of asbestos in the Readers' Forum/Opinion section of your November/December issue seem to place the emphasis in the wrong place. In the first place, the recognition of the hazardous nature of asbestos is belated, to say the least. It was back in the 1930's that public health officials identified most of the problems related to asbestos fiber, and the more enlightened industrial firms took steps to protect the health of the workers.

Secondly, there seems to be a disproportionate amount of pride being expressed by companies who succeed in eliminating the use of asbestos fiber. Granted that there are many instances where it should be eliminated for public health reasons, and where substitute materials can be used without impairing the properties of the finished product, this is not always possible.

As recognized in your article, asbestos has many unique properties which have no counterpart in anything else. It seems that the first responsibility of industry is to recognize when there are no adequate substitutes and then design the manufacturing operation in such a way that the fibers are properly confined both during and after the processing step. An accomplishment of this sort would be more worthy of pride than the simple blind elimination of the use of asbestos fiber.

Very truly yours,

Leonard W. Weaver
Technical Center Manager

LWW/rp



056