FILE NAME: US Gypsum (USG)

DATE: February 17, 1937

DOC#: USG059

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: 1937 Letter to CM Price from AC Hirth regarding inquiry about effects of handling glass wool.

OWENS-ILLINOIS GLASS COMPANY

MANUFACTURER OF Owens-Illinois GLASS CONTAINERS

GENERAL OFFICES

TOLEDO

February 17, 1937.

Return to

Mr. Charles M. Price,
Scott, MacLeish & Falk,
134 S. LaSalle St.,
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Mr. Price:

Mr. Belknap has discussed with me your inquiry relative to the possible deleterious effects of handling glass wool, particularly with respect to possible dermatitis resulting therefrom.

In only two or three rare instances have we heard of any ill effects resulting from the handling of glass wool. Very occasionally an individual finds that his skin becomes slightly irritated, just as some individuals find their skins sensitive to various dyes commonly used in the manufacture of clothing and costume jewelry.

We have made considerable investigation in connection with our employees, and have been advised that in those rare instances where irritation is produced, it is relieved by an application of soap and water.

Because of the recent silicosis epidemic we anticipated that wild statements might be made relative to possible damage resulting from the inhalation or ingestion of fine particles of glass wool. Accordingly we had experiments conducted under the auspices of Dr. Leroy U. Gardner of Saranac Laboratories, Saranac Lake, New York, and Professor Phillip E. Drinker of the Harvard School of Public Health. Our own opinion that the product was harmless is borne out in the reports of these two experiments, copies of which are enclosed for your information.

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OWENS-ILLINOIS GLASS COMPANY

From time to time we have received requests for the enclosed reports from salesmen, but have declined to publish the reports as such, because of the possibility of their being distorted or misused. We have, however, tried to pass along the essential information contained therein, as evidenced by a copy of our letter to Mr. Johnson of U. S. Gypsum Co. of February 12, which is enclosed herewith.

In some few cases it probably will be necessary to show the customer the report itself. Such cases, however, are being referred to Toledo and we handle them directly with the customer.

We trust that the foregoing information will be of assistance to you.

Yours very truly,

OWENS-ILLINOIS GLASS COMPANY

A. C. Hirth,
Legal & Patent Department.

cb
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