FILE NAME: Asbestos Textile Product Use (ATPU)

DATE: 19yo 5ŜŎ м

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WILLIAM D. MILLER
DIRECTOR--SAFETY AND
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

United States Steel Corporation
600 GRANT STREET
PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA 15230

December 1, 1983

Dr. Grace Ziem
Johns Hopkins University
School of Public Health
615 W. Wolfe Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21205

Dear Dr. Ziem:

This is to confirm our telephone conversation of November 29, 1983 concerning asbestos substitutes for molten metal exposure.

Approximately five years ago, we began working with various vendors to identify fabrics which, when aluminized, would provide acceptable protection in hot metal exposure applications. Comfort and durability criteria were also considered during our evaluation of available substitute fabrics.

As a result of our studies, the following were approved for use in United States Steel facilities (samples enclosed).

1. 19 Oz. Aluminized PFR Rayon (Herringbone or Basket Weave)

   The rayon requires a permanent flame retardant treatment and is achieved while spinning the fiber being processed into yarn. It is then woven into a fabric and aluminized.

2. Norfab 400

   Primarily made from high heat resistant Fiberglass and Aramid fibers such as Kevlar. Fiberglass is used as a core which provides high strength and the necessary insulation characteristics and stability at elevated temperatures. The Kevlar wrapper provides comfort, wear characteristics, and high heat resistance.

3. Norfab 900

This is a yarn which provides a unique combination of flame and high heat resistant non-melting stabilized semi-carbon fibers (Preox and Kevlar). It is durable, flexible and incorporates a high degree of abrasion resistance.

4. Aluminized Whipcord

The whipcord fabric is 100% - 12 oz. cotton which has been subjected to an ammonia-cured, flame retardant treatment. The fabric then receives a double layer of aluminum film, laminated on each side of a high temperature film, which is then laminated to the whipcord with a heat stable adhesive.

Our suppliers for the garments manufactured of the above described materials are:

A-Best Products Company
3865 West 150th Street
Cleveland, Ohio 44111

Rubin Brothers, Inc.
2241 S. Halsted Street
Chicago, Illinois 60608

Sager Glove Corporation
4030 N. Nashville Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60634

As existing asbestos protective garments are depleted, they are being replaced by non-asbestos bearing fabrics, as indicated above. By directive from our Safety and Environmental Health group, no United States Steel Corporation location may now order any protective garment (coats, jackets, pants, aprons, spats, leggings, gloves, hoods, etc.) containing asbestos.

I hope this information will prove useful to you. If we can be of further assistance, do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

WDM/js
enclosures