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February 1, 1971

Mr. H. Frohman, General Product Manager
Building Products Division
GAF Corporation
140 West 51st Street
New York, New York 10020

Dear Herb:

I have reviewed your file on the matter of caution notices for mineral fiber products and return the same herewith. Although copies of the minutes of the Health & Safety Council/ACPA meeting held on November 19, 1970 were sent to Joe Hall and Harry Mesler, it would appear that these minutes have not been broadly circulated otherwise. A copy is enclosed for your information and use. In addition, I enclose a copy of the Council's brochure "Recommended Practices for Fabricating, Handling and Applying Asbestos Cement Products in the Building and Construction Industries". (GAF paid for 1,000 of these pamphlets.) This brochure represents the combined judgment of the best people in the asbestos cement industry. All U.S. manufacturers of A-C products participated on this project which took over a year of study.

You will note that the Health & Safety Council brochure starts off on a positive note: "Asbestos-cement products, in place and under normal use, present no known health risk to the user or general public." Problems do arise, however, when these products are cut, sawed and drilled creating dusts in excess of allowable threshold limits.

I call your particular attention to the discussion on page 5 of the minutes on "Labeling Asbestos Cement Products", the

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Mr. H. Frohman
GAF Corporation

Supradur letter of September 24, 1970 appended to the minutes and the J-K caution label which I understand is inter-leaved with flat sheets.

The consensus of the Health & Safety Council appears to be that shingles, siding, corrugated sheets and piping do not require labels. Loose or bagged asbestos fibers do require labels. Flat sheets are labeled by some because there is greater chance that such sheets may be extensively fabricated, often in considerable volume and in a relatively enclosed area.

The Asbestos Cement Products Association has not published any "ruling" on placing caution notices on all products containing asbestos, but the enclosures reflect, quite accurately I think, what the consensus is in the asbestos cement manufacturing industry. Perhaps the hard work of the Health & Safety Council should be publicized a little more among the member companies.

Incidentally, I personally prefer J-K's caution notice to yours. The GAF notice is far more frightening. Observe what it states: (1) product contains asbestos fiber; (2) inhalation. . . may be harmful. This almost suggests that you should not breathe when you are near asbestos fiber. The question is; inhalation of what? air? or dust? Answer is; dust. I think you should mention dust before you refer to inhalation.

There will be a meeting of the Health & Safety Council in New York at the Biltmore Hotel, 11 A.M., Tuesday, February 23rd. You might wish to attend and bring Mr. Carter. Please advise.

I hope this letter is of some help to you. Please feel free to call if you need further information.

Yours sincerely,

Harry Weiss

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Encs.

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