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Mr. A. C. Mann.

68/703-4

Mr. John Waddell.

Mr. R. H. Wilson,

N. I. & C. Co. Ltd.

JJ/JHC
AKM/GRP/WR/ACK/SH
KN

PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL

14th February, 1967

I.C.I. Slough - Asbestos Containing Material

Thank you for your memo of 7th February and for the I.C.I. papers enclosed. I notice that these are not marked confidential and presumably they will soon be circulating quite freely in the Contracting Industry, so that there will not be the same degree of secrecy about our possession of them as there is about the corresponding Admiralty papers.

I am not sure what the I.C.I. Slough Division covers but in any case I imagine that we can take it that similar directives will be coming out in most of the I.C.I. Divisions.

This matter is, of course, of as much importance to J.W.R. Ltd. as it is to T.B.A. and N.I.C. Co. Ltd., so perhaps you have already sent a copy to Mr. Marshall; in case this is not so, I sent him a xerox of the papers last week.

I notice that in the first paragraph of Section 3 of Mr. Churchill's memorandum the percentage of asbestos in calcium silicate insulation is stated to be 12%; is it not a fact that the percentage of asbestos in calcium silicate is much lower than in the old 25% magnesia? (I doubt if this point of detail would make much difference to I.C.I.'s attitude but nevertheless it seems a pity if they have got their facts wrong.)

I understand from our telephone conversation a couple of weeks ago that the policy of your Company will probably be to develop calcium silicate sections with reinforcements other than asbestos but, at least for high temperature work, the solution to

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this problem is still not clear. I do not know if chopped glass ,
roving would be technically suitable but in any case it may be
much too expensive; T.D.A. would be happy to supply samples.

The problem of a suitable hard-setting cement is, I believe,
also a very difficult one, and this is a very important item for
J.W.R. Ltd. The I.C.I. memorandum by Mr. D. E. Evans says that
"asbestos-free hard-setting compounds are under development by the
insulation manufacturers", but your memo says that Darlington
Insulation has succeeded. I am sure that this problem is being
studied actively by J.W.R. Ltd. and Kowalls jointly but in the
meantime I wonder if we could not make a further attempt to
persuade I.C.I. that ED.2 applied as a wet slurry is not dusty?
I would guess that ED.2 applied over asbestos-free insulation would
not give off asbestos dust when removed, even after prolonged
drying at high temperatures, but this would have to be proved.
We would still be left, of course, with the problem of the dust
which may be caused by the droppings of cement which will dry out
on the floor during the process of application.

There is no reference in these papers to the use of asbestos
cloth, and I recall that you told me you did not think I.C.I. used
any significant quantity, but T.D.A.'s information is that some
Divisions of I.C.I. do use it.

John Waddell. ✓