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Ba papers.

TURNER BROTHERS ASBESTOS COMPANY LTD.

Office of Origin	To
Rochdale	Mr A.C. Mann

Ref:- Ref: KHD/KMB
To: Rgnl. Mngrs.
Copy: DOGG/DMt

Your Ref:-

14th July, 1957.

Glass Materials for Insulation

Thank you for your reports in response to my memo. of 1st June. These have been very helpful in adding to our appreciation of this matter, although, as was to be expected, the overall picture is by no means a clear cut one consistent throughout the country. Your views as to whether a pronounced trend towards glass can be detected differ quite considerably.

I would like to make the following facts taken from individual reports known generally:-

1. Their Medical Officers having recommended against the use of asbestos in thermal insulation, the C.E.G.B. has prepared a new code of practice based on glass materials which has been circulated to all stations by Mr. Wilde of South Western Division, the appropriate Standards Engineer who relied heavily on advice from us in drawing up this document. Some Divisions seem to be treating this new code of practice as a directive and Mr. Wilde has recommended that we should contact all stations to introduce our materials at first hand.

2. William Kenyon & Sons Ltd., Dukinfield, Insulation Manufacturers, have informed us that the following amongst their customers now specify insulation materials free from asbestos:-

continued:

C.E.G.B.

Courtaulds propaganda

Cadburys

Shell Petroleum Company

Esso Petroleum Company

National Petroleum Company

Stork Margarine

T. Wall & Sons Ltd. — Unilever?

United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority

The various Divisions of I.C.I. also continue to seek actively alternatives to asbestos based materials for insulation.

3. There has recently been a strike of laggers on Clyde Side for 5/-d. per hour extra for handling asbestos.

4. Insulation contractors who make mattresses appear to be taking a keener interest in glass materials than those who do not, no doubt because the new asbestos industry regulations at present in draft form will tighten up very considerably the conditions under which asbestos mattresses can be made.

5. Both Fothergill & Harvey and B.B.A. have been offering glass materials for thermal insulation. This is not, of course, new but no doubt they have been stimulated into increased activity in this sector of the market by the asbestos health scare. B.B.A. are offering only staple glass materials (as opposed to the continuous filament glass fibre produced by T.B.A. and all other U.K. glass fibre manufacturers) based on the staple glass fibre produced by their associate company Versil. They are marketing a very rough looking glass fibre rope lagging at prices in excess of asbestos rope lagging, consisting of staple glass yarn braided around a centre of bunched-up glass tissue. They appear to be offering only one quality of glass cloth - 22 oz. per square yard, 40" wide, 100 ft. rolls at 18/-d. per lineal yard or 15/-d. per lineal yard to at least one insulation contractor.

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This is very different in character to the rove based and continuous filament yarn based cloths which we offer. It is more expensive and in our view not as satisfactory for insulation applications.

On the other hand, there are obviously many insulation contractors in this conservative trade who are quite content to carry on with the traditional asbestos materials which they know and understand and will make no move towards glass unless or until customer specifications force it on them. There are also indications in some parts of the country that the emotional reaction against asbestos may have lost some of its impetus.

Our policy remains as outlined in my memo. of the 24th February. We are receiving a steady trickle of orders for the glass qualities involved, but there are no sure signs yet of any flood developing. You appear to be well satisfied with the information which has been fed to you and the technical support given by Mr. Morant, apart from one or two suggestions that a printed leaflet on glass materials for insulation is desirable (inspired by the fact that Fothergill & Harvey have one - no copy yet received here). We are putting in hand some preparatory work on such a leaflet, but it is considered premature to publish yet. Such a leaflet might be harmful to our asbestos interests at this stage and the general situation is still in too great a state of flux. We are also working actively on the development of a glass fibre rope lagging. Whether or not we market this and when has not yet been determined, but it represents another shot in our locker in trying to make certain that the competition does not steal the march on us in this important market.

K. H. Dixon.