FILE NAME: TCA

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Tile Council of America INC.
P.O. Box 326 • Princeton, N.J. 08540 • 609 921-7050

October 21, 1976

TO: TCA Domestic Dry-Set Mortar Licensees

FROM: F. E. Bernett

RE: Asbestos vs Dry-Set mortars

The possibility of exposure of persons mixing TCA licensed Dry-Set mortars (756, 759, 763, 457) to higher levels of airborne asbestos fibre than are considered permissible by OSHA is indicated by the enclosed July 29, 1976 Test Report 1481 by Rossnagel & Associates.

Tests were run in a 12' x 20' unventilated closed room. Over a two-hour period, two 50 lb bags of Dry-Set mortar TCA 763 were emptied into a 5-gallon bucket mixer containing water and mixed. One bag was handled in a reasonable, job-site manner; the other was handled roughly with every effort to produce a dust-cloud considered the worst that would be encountered at a job site.

Because of these recent test results, it is our recommendation that the PROPOSED RULES regarding "Occupational Exposure to Asbestos" Federal Register, Vol. 40, No. 197, Thursday, October 9, 1975, be followed carefully. The rules are copied in the enclosed report.

In accordance with (2) (i and ii) on page 47663, all bags of mortar containing asbestos should be labelled:

DANGER
CANCER HAZARD
CONTAINS ASBESTOS FIBERS
AVOID CREATING DUST

After years of intensive research, Tile Council of America has developed promising non-asbestos containing formulations. Presently, the formulations are being evaluated. The formulas should be ready for licensing soon.

FEB:ar
Enclosure

cc: Licensing Committee:
P. C. Johnson
E. M. Adams
G. L. Cecil
J. A. Baldauf
F. H. McIntyre, Jr.

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