WRG 001589

PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT WRG-557

UNDERWRITERS' LABORATORIES, INC.
333 PFINGSTEN ROAD · NORTHBROOK, ILLINOIS 60062

an independent, not-for-profit organization testing for public safety

August 4, 1970

TO: Listees of Spray-Applied Fire-Protective Materials

SUBJECT: Meeting of June 17, 1970 on The Health Hazard of Asbestos Fiber

Gentlemen:

Under date of May 15, 1970, we sent a letter to each of our Listees of Cementitious Mixtures and Sprayed Fiber materials requesting a meeting to discuss the health hazard of asbestos fiber. The meeting was held on June 17, 1970 at our Northbrook Office. Attached is a list of those people attending the meeting.

For the benefit of those unable to attend, this is a brief resume of the discussion at the meeting.

Because they appeared to have contributed largely to the recent attention to spray-applied materials containing asbestos, a brief review was conducted of "Asbestosis and Neoplasia," April 1967, The American Journal of Medicine and "The Magic Mineral," October 1968 New Yorker. Considerable discussion followed and some representatives took issue with the conclusions of the articles. It was stated that the health hazard to the general population by airborne asbestos fibers was without factual foundation. Reference was made to an article entitled "Asbestos and Health in 1969," October 1969, American Review of Respiratory Diseases, as a balanced review of the health hazard of inhaled asbestos fiber.

Continued discussion pointed out that there appeared to be three problem areas associated with the spraying of fire-protective materials as follows:

1. It appears to be agreed among those present that there is a problem of materials becoming ariborne at the job site and distributed about the neighborhood causing a general air pollution problem. However, there was disagreement as to whether this pollution is in fact a cancer causing health hazard.

2. There appears to be agreement that there is a health hazard to workmen on the job site if proper precautions are not taken to avoid inhaling airborne fibers by isolation of the spraying operation from other workmen, the use of masks, thorough housekeeping, and the proper handling of contaminated clothing by spraying personnel.

3. There may also be a health hazard to the occupants of a building if, for example, particles are sloughed from the fire-protective materials and become airborne as in return air, plenum systems. It appears that Items 1 and 2 are of immediate concern. Item 3, however, has not been reported to be a problem to anyone's knowledge at this time.

It was pointed out that Great Britain has been studying the same questions and for a longer period. Information on the subject can be obtained from The Asbestos Information Committee, 10 Wardour Street, London, England, WIV 3HG.

We were advised that the Sprayed Mineral Fiber Manufacturers Association is printing a "Recommended Code of Practice for the Application of Fireproofing Materials" which should be available in the near future.

Mr. E. N. Davis urged submittal of the Code to American National Standards Institute for adoption as evidence that the industry was striving to solve a recognized problem and on a national standard level.

It was pointed out that U.L.I. had an obligation to supply information to locat inspection authorities on the proper application of Listed materials. Accordingly, one solution would be to include such instructions on the bags of material or a reference on the bags to application instructions. A bulletin containing a specific proposal is being prepared and will be sent out shortly.

This concluded the discussion on the health hazard of asbestos fiber.

The guests were invited to reconvene after lunch to discuss implementing the new criteria for fire-resistance ratings to be contained in ASTM E119 and UL263. The Laboratories is considering new methods of presenting fire-resistance ratings such as a separate booklet in the form of looseleaf pages and the grouping of rated assemblies according to construction type. The grouping could be similar to the method of indexing new preceding Floor and Ceiling Assemblies in the List. No specific actions or proposals resulted from the discussion and the subject of rerating will be the subject of another Bulletin by the Laboratories to be issued in the near future. The meeting ended at about 3 p.m.

The Laboratories wishes to thank those attending the meeting for their time and valuable comments.

UNDERWRITERS' LABORATORIES, INC.

R. L. PARKS
Associate Managing Engineer
Fire Protection Department

RLP:bja

Attendance at Meeting of June 17, 1970

Name	Company
James L. Kempthorne	Sprayon Research Corp.
A. C. Richardson	Atlas Asbestos Co.
H. J. Corson	Midwest Mechanical Packing Co.
William K. Curtis	National Gypsum Co.
C. M. Brasker	Philip-Carey
Morris Lieff	Philip-Carey
Lee Jenne	Keene Corp. - Sound Control Div.
Dick Kempthorne	Sprayon Research Corp.
Larry Gropp	United States Mineral Products Co.
Bill Medlyn	United States Mineral Products Co.
R. J. Wenk	U. S. Gypsum Co.
Fred Kastner	U. S. Gypsum Co.
Edw. N. Davis	Underwriters' Laboratories, Inc.
Jack A. Bono	Underwriters' Laboratories, Inc.
Henry Marraffa	Universal Fire-Bar, Inc.
George Wright	Underwriters' Laboratories, Inc.
W. P. Raines	Johns-Manville Corp.
R. H. Neisel	Johns-Manville Corp.
Thomas Egan	W. R. Grace & Co.
Tom Feit	W. R. Grace & Co.
R. L. Parks	Underwriters' Laboratories, Inc.