

FILE NAME: Insulation Contractors & Distributors (ICD)

DATE: 1967 Aug 17

DOC#: ICD044

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Letter to US Public Health Service from Dr. Grant, National Insulation Manufacturers Assoc. RE "Alleged Health Hazards"

PLAINTIFF'S
EXHIBIT

66-12-8-78

August 17, 1967

Dr. Lewis J. Cralley, Director
Epidemiology and Field Studies
National Center for Urban and Industrial Health
United States Public Health Service
1014 Broadway
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

Dear Dr. Cralley:

The fibrous glass and mineral wool industry are disturbed at the possible impact upon this vital industry of alleged health hazards which are said to result from exposure to these materials both during manufacturing and fabrication and use of these materials.

Damage to the industry resulting from false statements could have a significant effect on the National economy. Attachment 1 describes the importance of these materials to the National economy. However, if there is a threat to health, prompt action must be taken to protect against this hazard. Industry's evaluation of its own experience with these materials thus far has not indicated the existence of a health hazard.

The industry's concern in regard to the alleged health hazards stimulated the formation of the Occupational Health and Safety Committee of the National Insulation Manufacturers Association (NIMA). As you know, this Committee brought together all available medical research data on the possible medical effects of fibrous glass and mineral wool. You reviewed the data at our request and advised in your letter to NIMA dated April 3, 1967 that a broadly based study was needed. The NIMA Board of Directors on May 16, 1967 unanimously agreed to seek the assistance of the U. S. Public Health Service in initiating a study of the fibrous glass and mineral wool industry with respect to alleged health hazards. At the discretion of the U. S. Public Health Service, the study may include environmental, clinical and epidemiological investigations. The Board authorized the Occupational Health and Safety Committee to take appropriate action with the Public Health Service in order to have the above study initiated as soon as practicable.

In a preliminary meeting of the Health and Safety Committee meeting with you on June 5, 1967 to discuss the study of the fibrous glass and mineral wool industry, you requested certain employment data concerning those plants manufacturing fibrous glass and/or mineral wool. We understood this data would form one basis for considering the feasibility of the industry-wide study.

Dr. Lewis J. Cralley
August 17, 1967

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This letter is to thank you for the opportunity of meeting with you to discuss our industry's problem and also to express the eagerness of the Managements of our industry to cooperate with you in every way in the accomplishment of whatever study you deem appropriate.

Sincerely,

Lee B. Grant, M.D., Chairman
Occupational Health and Safety Committee
National Insulation Manufacturers Assn.

lms
Attachment

cc: Mr. J. F. Vyverberg, President
National Insulation Manufacturers Assn.

PLAINTIFF'S
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66-128-78

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH HAZARDS

Derived from Industrial Health Reports

October 1960 through December 1960

Release No. 27-55

For Official Use Only

1. Chemical Health Hazards and Their Control

A. Inhalation Hazards Due to Vapors, Fumes, Mists, Gases and Dusts

1. Asbestos Dust: Further samples have been taken to determine the extent of exposure to asbestos dust by pipe coverers and insulators working aboard ship. Results of the samples taken are as follows:

Operation Dust Count (ppcf)

Installation of asbestos cloth	5.5
Installation and saving insulation block	20.0
Installation of insulation block	3.9
Saving insulation block	27.0
Installing block insulation	11.7
Mixing magnesia cement	5.6
Sweep up after coating asbestos on boiler	92.5
Rip out of pipe insulation	6.8

In general, it is concluded that while cutting and installing insulation block and when ripping out old insulation, the dust counts usually exceed the safe concentration, assuming all the dust to be asbestos. When installing asbestos cloth and prefabricated insulation, the dust counts generally are within acceptable limits. It has been recommended that pipe coverers and insulators performing dusty jobs be required to wear dust respirators. In some cases, it may be feasible to wet down the insulating material before the work is begun to reduce dust formation.

4. Fiber Glass Pad for Asbestos. The Value Engineering Department has been looking for a substitute for amosite (asbestos material) to reduce the present high cost of insulation practices and to reduce the health hazard of asbestos work. The E. I. Thompson Fibreglass Company of Los Angeles, in conjunction with the Owens-Corning Company, has developed a fibreglass pad which withstands the temperature requirement and also reduces the final cost of the job. According to the manufacturers, fibreglass is made of finely pulverized ingredients, including sand, lime and metallic oxides. A mixture of silicates results after processing with no free silica present. They state that glass fibers are inert, non-toxic, non-allergic, and cause no lung hazard. The new fibreglass contains long smooth fibers which are claimed to be less irritating to the skin. Tentative heat tests have been conducted with fibreglass insulation to 1100 degrees F before any change in physical characteristics. Some fibreglass pads will be installed on a destroyer in the near future for further evaluation. (3)