

#151 - Mr. J. N. Walker

2/18/74

#151 - Mr. K. S. Freeman

OSHA STANDARDS FOR ASBESTOS

Attached is a file that lists the products of both U.S.G. & C.G.C. that contain asbestos. The major problem is with the joint compound and spray texture products. It may be technically feasible to control asbestos dust in our plants; however, control of asbestos dust under job conditions is very difficult. It would take extraordinary handling procedures to comply with either the 8-hour time-weighted average of 2-fibers per cc of air or the maximum instantaneous ceiling concentration of 10 asbestos fibers per cc of air during job mixing of powder products. Strict monitoring of job mixing by OSHA inspectors would prohibit powder products. Ready-mixed products would eliminate job mixing, but sanding will present a problem. Since the 2-fiber per cc regulation is based on an 8-hour time-weighted average, it is administratively feasible to stagger work schedules to comply with the regulation. However, this would be economically restrictive. Spraying of asbestos-containing texture paints can also result in concentrations of asbestos fibers in the fog or mist portion of the spray that could exceed the 2-fiber per cc limit. State regulations in Minnesota and local regulations in Chicago prohibit the spraying of asbestos-containing material. Eventually, the pressure of public opinion will virtually eliminate the use of all spray-applied asbestos-containing products.

Asbestos-cement siding could result in asbestos dust concentrations that exceed the 10-fiber ceiling limit on the job site if cut with power saws. However, a blade-type cutter would eliminate this problem.

The elimination of asbestos appears to be reasonably feasible in all other U.S.G. and C.G.C. products; however, confirming tests must be conducted on asbestos-free products at UL to maintain existing ratings for Class "A" roofing shingles, Class "A" B-U-R, and fire rated ACOUSTONE ceiling assemblies.

KSF:mmm

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ELIMINATION OF ASBESTOS IN U.S.G. PRODUCTS

<u>PRODUCT</u>	<u>PLANTS</u>	<u>SUMMARY</u>
Joint Compounds, & Textures	Gypsum, New Brighton South Gate, Dallas, Chamblee, Midway, Jacksonville, Hagersville, Montreal	By mid-1976, we fully expect to be able to manufacture the entire USG Joint Compound line the DURABOND line, the Ready-Mixed line, the IMPERIAL QT line, and all other specialty products without loss of quality; however, there may be some instances of increase raw material costs. See attached memo by Mr. Maynard for details.
Asbestos-Cement Siding	East Chicago	Cannot eliminate asbestos. Need improved asbestos handling at plant.
DURACAL Alkyd Exterior Texture	Nashville	A good, asbestos-free solvent formula is available at Research, but not bulletined. Sales prefers to switch all sales to the latex type which is asbestos-free, and is trying to do so.
Super Block Filler	Dallas, Gypsum, New Brighton	This product made by adding materials to ready-mixed joint compound. Will change when asbestos-free ready-mix is available.
Asphalt Rooftex Aluminum Coating (Private Label)	Nashville	To be dropped from line in 1974.
Quotstone 120 180	Gypsum, Walworth	An asbestos-free formula must pass UL test. There is no active research program.
ALCO Self-sealing asphalt adhesive.	Jersey City, St. Paul, South Gate	Asbestos probably can be eliminated (prob. 90%) in 3 to 4 months.

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ELIMINATION OF ASBESTOS IN U.S.G. PRODUCTS
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<u>PRODUCT</u>	<u>PLANTS</u>	<u>SUMMARY</u>
Class "A" Shingles & BUR	South Gate	Asbestos-free formul. must pass UL test. Active research program.
Asphalt Roofing Cement	St. Paul	Need plant improvement or b pre-mix as Jersey City & South Gate.
Asbestos Roofing Felt	South Gate	No tests have been made to determine asbestos pollution during saturation of purchased asbestos felt.
Metal Casting Plaster	Detroit, Southard, New Brighton	Uses mouldene talc. Proba- bility 85% that talc can be eliminated. Trade acceptanc uncertain.
DROPERM	Ft. Dodge	Uses mouldene talc. Could b replaced with regular HYDROPERM which is asbestos- free.
KASTICAL Special	Détroit	Uses mouldene talc. Probabi- lity 85% that talc can be replaced. Trade acceptance uncertain.
CGC AUDICOTE	Hagersville	Production to be terminated when compliance with asbestos regulations is no longer feasible, per Mr. Hood.
CGC BONDCRETE	Hagersville	Research evaluation of asbestos-free formulas has been delayed.
CGC ORIENTAL Exterior Stucco	Montreal	Trial jobs of asbestos-free formulas have been delayed.

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