T-012

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To Our Talc Customers

Gentlemen:

The following publicity release has been sent to all industry trade journals:

OSHA SAYS INSUFFICIENT EVIDENCE OF ASBESTOS

IN R.T. VANDERBILT TALC, DISMISSES CASE.

ATLANTA, March 25.-- The Department of Labor has dismissed a citation brought by OSHA against a customer of the R. T. Vanderbilt Company, Inc., of Norwalk, Connecticut, in which it was alleged that talc supplied by Vanderbilt contained asbestos. According to the request for dismissal prepared by OSHA, the Solicitor of Labor, Carin Ann Clauss concluded that the charge lacked sufficient evidence to support the citation.

The Vanderbilt customer, a tile manufacturer in Florida, was cited last August for violation of the OSHA Asbestos Standard despite the fact that the talc used in his tile formulation was certified by Vanderbilt as being free of asbestos. The manufacturer contested the citation. As the case progressed toward trial, it was disclosed that personnel in OSHA's Salt Lake City laboratory had, without the benefit of preliminary identification test, made the assumption that the Vanderbilt talc contained tremolite asbestos. Subsequent government laboratory studies revealed OSHA had insufficient evidence to prove an asbestos violation. Upon review of these facts, the attorney for the Department of Labor recommended dismissal of the citation.

The recommendations for use of our materials are based upon tests believed to be reliable. However, we do not guarantee the results to be obtained

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The dismissal marked the second time in a row that OSHA has withdrawn an asbestos allegation involving Vanderbilt talc. In an earlier case in which OSHA cited a Vanderbilt customer, the government authority dropped all charges that the talc contained asbestos and agreed to a settlement citing the manufacturer for violation of a dust standard.

Commenting on the most recent dismissal of the citation, Vanderbilt president, Hugh B. Vanderbilt said, "This is an important decision. It directly affects the multimillion-dollar ceramic and paint industries and thousands of employees. We are, of course, very pleased with this turn of events."

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