

FILE NAME: Owens-Corning (OC)

DATE: 1966 Oct 27

DOC#: OC025

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Memo RE Health Hazards

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M. F. ...
- 6 DICK Shannon Copies to

B.E. Boyd
R. S. Evans
J. H. Thomas

R. S. Evans

C. O. Steelin - Toledo

October 27, 1966

Wayne Johnson - New York

F. H. Edwards - Toledo

D. W. Ladd, Jr. - New York

HEALTH HAZARDS

You asked for our recommendations on health hazards which are shown below. Before we get into them, however, you should understand some of the background.

This is more than a union dispute between the asbestos workers and the sheet metal workers over who is to put in the insulation on duct systems. We know of investigations being carried on by the University of California and Mount Sinai Hospital (both with Federal funds). There is rumor of one at MIT; Congress has been interested; and the entire problem of environmental hazards is receiving a new look. So far as we are able to determine, there is no evidence that glass fibers of any size or diameter cause cancer, lung disease, etc. On the other hand, there is enough smoke about asbestos so that it is our layman's opinion a fire is involved. Surveys of union locals in Cincinnati, New York and New Jersey reveal a substantially higher incidence of cancer than the general population, and no reason has been brought forward except exposure to asbestos.

OCF cannot disassociate itself from asbestos, as we buy nearly one million dollars worth as reinforcement for Krylo. It is conceivable that there will be state or Federal legislation restricting the use of asbestos in insulating materials. Already, Bath Iron Works has notified the Navy they will not use insulation with more than 20% asbestos fiber because of the death of an employee.

New England Insulation has reported the first state claim against Krylo. A workman engaged in making fittings from Krylo has allegedly contracted asbestosis and is claiming Workman's Compensation on that basis.

We have good evidence of the safety of glass fibers but it has not been pulled together, edited and published by a recognized medical authority who is not associated with, or hired by, Owens-Corning. In our opinion, we should do three things:

1. Ask a reputable, independent medical authority to review our records, and any others he may need, and publish his findings on glass fibers.
2. With this background of medical fact, we should launch a publicity campaign on the safety of glass fibers.

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PLAINTIFF'S
EXHIBIT

OCF-24

C. C. Starlin

- 2 -

October 27, 1966

3. We should again investigate the use of other reinforcing materials in Keylo.

After you've read this over, please telephone and discuss further. Mr. Edwards, no doubt, has another point of view which you will wish to obtain.

There is urgency in this matter — branches are calling or writing in for guidance; our franchised Contractors are asking advice on what they should do; and we may well start losing specifications. A program with due dates and responsibilities is required.

Wayne Johnson

Wjdt

C. G. Staelin - Toledo

October 27, 1966

Wayne Johnson - New York

F. H. Edwards - Toledo

D. W. Ladd, Jr. - New York

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OCF cannot disassociate itself from asbestos, as we buy nearly one million dollars worth as reinforcement for Kaylo. It is conceivable that there will be state or Federal legislation restricting the use of asbestos in insulations materials. Already, Bath Iron Works has notified the Navy they will not use insulation with more than 20% asbestos fiber because of the death of an employee.

New England Insulation has reported the first state claim against Kaylo. A workman engaged in making fittings from Kaylo has allegedly contracted asbestosis and is claiming Workmen's Compensation on that basis.

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Castleman File: Owens-Corning Fiberglass
w/c = with cover letter or memo If DATE = 0, undated
CD-ROM Document #: OCF 26 DATE 1966

article in ___ newspaper ___ medical journal ___ trade journal

___ published presentation from conference

___ published government report

___ government inspection results

___ unpublished internal report

___ unpublished presentation from conference

✓ memo 11/10/66

___ letter _____

___ warning label

___ sales literature

___ medical records

meeting ___ agenda ___ minutes ___ attendee list

___ legal filing of defense

___ legal filing of plaintiff

___ legal deposition of _____

___ other _____

J. F. Vyverberg - New York

November 10, 1966

F. R. Wimmert - New York

J. H. Briley - Toledo

P. H. Edwards - Toledo

W. Johnson - New York

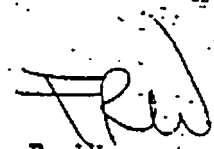
HEALTH HAZARDS - KAYLO

Ex. # P-64
For Id. V In Evd
Date: 5/16/82
GERALD DONIS, C.S.R.

In a letter of October 24 Ed Edwards suggested that we consider labeling our Kaylo products similarly to that now being done by J.H. This would mean that we would put on a statement similar to the following: Hazardous product and respirator should be worn. I would appreciate your advising what steps you are going to take in facing this problem and the possibility of including this statement on our curtains.

I would also like Marshall's suggestions in this regard as it involves not only protecting ourselves now, but the legal liability we might get into on claims brought against us before we started to label the product in this way.

We must make a decision with all the facts at hand, and we should be given direction and guidance from Marshall before a decision is made. Will look for you to follow through on the above and keep me advised.


F. R. Wimmert

FEW:jm