Examples of Compounds with Asbestos
BMM 5303
BMRS 5303
BMMA 5353

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OCT 10 1972
E. W. KRUMMEL

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PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT
UC-5303

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Chemicals & Plastics
New York

October 5, 1972

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GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY

Elimination of Molding Material Using Asbestos

E A LAWRENCE - URGENT! LETS DISCUSS - PROBLEM OR OPPORTUNITY?
E Krummel

During the past two weeks, the fact that General Electric has planned to discontinue the manufacture of heat-resistant phenolic molding material using asbestos as a filler, became known and later confirmed as true. During a discussion with Mr. Ken Price, Molding Engineer, and Mr. Andy Anderson, Purchasing Agent, at the General Electric plant in Plainville, Connecticut, they indicated the decison had been made five weeks ago because of OSHA requirements. The decision was primarily made for two reasons: first, General Electric didn't want to invest expenditure needed to purchase equipment to meet OSHA requirements in the manufacturing plant; second, one of General Electric's locations which was molding asbestos material was cited for violations of OSHA regulations specifying the minimum asbestos content in the air. ← MAIN PROBLEM

What initially appears to be an excellent chance to gain business where G. E. heat resistant materials are used, may turn into a serious long-term threat to all suppliers of asbestos filled phenolic molding materials. While G. E. sales personnel are discussing their discontinuance of the product with their customers, they are emphasizing the hazards the molders face by using the asbestos filled materials due to OSHA requirements. !

The initial reactions I have received at three large customers using G. E. asbestos materials have shown deep concern in continuing molding asbestos filled materials. Haskon Inc. has requested letters of policy in the making, handling, and use of asbestos filled phenolics from all of their suppliers as a result of the G. E. visit. Texas Instruments, which uses about 750M lbs. annually of Genal 4300 (asbestos filled), is preparing to begin a full scale evaluation of G. E. heat resistant materials using other fillers instead of asbestos. Mr. Pete Cutler, Production Engineer, indicated that G. E. has assured Texas Instruments that equivalent molding materials without asbestos will be developed to replace Genal 4300 before G. E. discontinues manufacturing the product in January 1973. The G. E. plant in

Plainville has indicated that the internal policy for all G. E. plants is to find equivalent substitutes for all asbestos filled phenolic molding materials now being used.

From these initial responses I have received in the New England area, the use of asbestos filled material by molders may seriously become jeopardized. The extent of the problem will be strongly influenced by the success of G. E. to replace the use of asbestos in heat resistant molding materials. As of this date no samples have been sent out by G. E. and indications point to the fact they may not have one developed yet that has been fully tested. But in the meantime, G. E. is creating a demand for a new heat resistant material without asbestos. It appears they are selling a new product before they have one.

With the current situation, I believe UCC should begin taking some positive action. First, it should immediately be determined with the existing OSHA requirements whether the molder risks any possible repercussions in OSHA violations by using asbestos filled molding materials. If not, a detailed letter should be sent to all phenolic salesmen explaining OSHA requirements with the intent for them to explain this information to their customers. If it is shown definite potential OSHA violations exist using asbestos filled molding materials, an active development program should be started to find a suitable replacement for asbestos.

Positive action taken now may help reduce possible confusion with our customers in the near future regarding OSHA requirements. If it is found a substitute material is needed, an early development program should help UCC keep a step ahead of competition.

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