

GAF
CORPORATION



Interoffice Correspondence

*Reading T.M.
lap*

To: Mr. J. Oliviero
Location: New York - 140

From: William Fassuliotis
Location: Wayne

Date: January 22, 1980
cc: Mr. J. Gow, New York-140

Subject: EPA/CPSC PROPOSAL TO BAN ASBESTOS

Per your recent telephone request, the following information is submitted for your use in developing a company response to the EPA/CPSC proposal to ban asbestos.

1. The chart below up-dates the 1976 Asbestos Task Force Report as it relates to number of employees exposed to asbestos. In this summary we are defining "exposed employees" as only those job classifications that are monitored on a semi-annual basis in accordance with OSHA requirements. We have not listed nor included roofing plants that run asbestos felt since exposures are minimal and manufacturing with this material is not on a regular daily basis.

The column showing Average Exposure is the average of all 8-hour time weighted data points accumulated during the past two years for all "exposed employees". The value given for each location could be considered as a typical exposure for those employees handling or working with asbestos.

<u>Location</u>	<u>Number Employees</u>	<u>Number Exposed</u>	<u>Average TWA Exposure (fibers/cc)</u>
Erie 16th St.	105	19	0.49
Joliet (B'way)	725	19	0.92
Long Beach	204	32	0.27
Mobile	330	7	0.36
Vails Gate	481	35	0.43
Whitehall	600	20	0.09

2. Concerns as regards asbestos are inhalation and ingestion of the fiber. Good practices relative to worker hygiene are encouraged including washing, showering, work clothes changes and proper disposal and/or washing of clothes. Annual health monitoring is conducted including chest X-ray and pulmonary function tests. Exposure monitoring is conducted at least semi-annually. Respirator use is encouraged although exposures are below permissible OSHA limits.

Engineering controls incorporated in these operations include improved bag-opening and handling equipment and cutting tables, hood and exhaust systems for dust control, enclosure of specific operations, general

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work area ventilation and use of vacuum systems for clean-up.

Major improvements provided by the asbestos suppliers have been in the packaging of fiber which permits disposal of the packaging material by consuming it in the process in most cases and the use of shrink-wrapped pallet loads of asbestos to minimize breakage of bags in transit.

If further information is desired, please advise.

WF:RE

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