

Product J-1
(Sub. Files)
Name: TR

PLAINTIFF'S
EXHIBIT
CAM-258

February 3, 1987

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Dear

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Subject: Cyprus Talc Products and Asbestos Regulations

In response to your inquiry concerning Cyprus Industrial Minerals Talc products and OSHA regulations on asbestos, tremolite, anthophyllite, and actinolite, the following is a summary of the facts about our products as well as the policy of Cyprus Industrial Minerals Company on this subject.

Cyprus Talc products do not contain detectable amounts of asbestos, tremolite, anthophyllite, or actinolite when analyzed by X-ray diffraction and optical and electron microscopy. The OSHA Standard requires asbestos hazard labeling of products that contain asbestos, tremolite, anthophyllite, or actinolite or a combination of these minerals in concentrations of 0.1% or greater by weight. Cyprus Talc products, because of their purity, do not require labeling.

Our statement that Cyprus Talc products do not contain detectable amounts of asbestos minerals is based upon years of products analyses by Cyprus analytical laboratories as well as recognized outside, independent laboratories and organizations such as NIOSH¹. All available scientific evidence clearly indicates that asbestos minerals are not present in detectable quantities in our commercial talc deposits. Our Montana Yellowstone and Beaverhead Talcs are world renowned for their purity and freedom from asbestos mineral contaminants.

Cyprus Industrial Minerals Company maintains a Quality Assurance testing program designed to ensure continued product purity. Presently, this program includes:

1. Complete mineralogy and optical microscopy analyses of mine development samples.
2. Complete mineralogy determination of daily crude production composites samples.

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3. X-ray diffraction testing for amphibole asbestos (CTFA J4-1) on every production lot of finished product.
4. Periodic optical dispersion staining microscopy and SEM analyses of crude and finished products.
5. Periodic TEM analyses of finished products by outside, independent laboratories.

It is the policy of Cyprus Industrial Minerals Company that we will not mine, manufacture, or sell products containing detectable levels of asbestos minerals.

For further information, contact your Cyprus representative or write to:

Cyprus Industrial Minerals Co.
Attn: Manager Quality Assurance
P. O. Box 3299
Englewood, Colorado 80155

Sincerely,

Richard J. Zazenski
Vice President
Quality Assurance/Product Safety

RJZ/mc

¹In 1977 and 1978, NIOSH conducted an industry-wide study of talc miners and millers in the United States. Analyses of Cyprus talcs and respiratory dust samples obtained from Cyprus mines and mills all showed that they did not contain asbestiform minerals.