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SHIPBUILDERS COUNCIL OF AMERICA

1730 K STREET N. W. • WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006 • 202|338-7722

April 14, 1969

To: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Subject: Safety Matters

You will recall that at the March 5 meeting of the Board several matters were discussed relating to safety and health in shipyards. These included:

a. Handling of potentially explosive ships by repair yards, and

b. Revised Walsh-Healey Public Contracts Act Safety and Health Standards, particularly threshold limits on noise and asbestos dust.

As directed by the Board, the Safety Committee considered these subjects at its meeting April 2, and its recommendations to the Board, based on extended discussion, are:

Asbestos Fiber Health Hazards in Shipyards

These problems require close scrutiny, prompt action and coordination with parallel efforts in other industries. To this end, the Council should request all members to provide any information they may have as to studies being made of these problems, visits from research groups, and so on. Contact with the public relations firm of Hill & Knowlton, Inc. which now represents Johns Manville Corp., and with the American Medical Association was also suggested.

Handling of Potentially Explosive Ships by U.S. Repair Yards

There are some obvious differences of opinion on this matter, and therefore it is recommended that a survey similar to that made in 1963 should again be made to determine the present position of the individual members of the Council on this question.

PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT
SBCA 5015
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Details of the Safety Committee's discussion of these subjects are covered in the attached Minutes of the April 2 meeting.

On the assumption that the above recommendations are acceptable to the Board, all members are respectfully urged to provide promptly any information on studies of asbestos and noise problems or visits from research groups they may see fit to share with the Council.

With regard to the handling of non gas freed ships, prompt return of the enclosed survey will also be appreciated.

Your reply prior to May 17 would be most helpful.

Edwin M. Hood
President

Copy to: Safety Committee