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B.F.Goodrich

The B. F. Goodrich Company

500 SOUTH MAIN STREET • AKRON, OHIO 44318

February 12, 1970

Mr. Peter Bommarito
International President
United Rubber, Cork, Linoleum and
Plastic Workers of America
87 South High Street
Akron, Ohio 44308

Dear Mr. Bommarito:

Please refer to your letter dated January 8, 1970 with respect to the use of asbestos in our manufacturing plants. We have reviewed the use of asbestos in plants organized by the URW. Listed below are descriptions of the locations and conditions under which it is used.

1. Asbestos is used in two departments of the Akron Adhesives Plant. It has been used in the manufacture of bonding films in D/1535 for the past 5 years and in the manufacture of roof coating and construction adhesive products in D/1540 for the past 15 years. An average of about 5 people have handled the material in D/1535 and an average of about 15 people in D/1540.

   In these departments dry fibre is carefully handled so dust exposures are well below the normal threshold limit. Adequate ventilation is maintained and the dust exposures have been checked by our Department of Industrial Hygiene and Toxicology. All personnel engaged in the handling of the material are given a chest X-ray and pulmonary function study prior to the assignment and once each year thereafter. These X-rays are carefully reviewed by our medical personnel to be sure that each individual is free from pulmonary pathology.

   These are the only departments in which raw asbestos is used in the manufacturing process.

2. An asbestos fabric is calendered with a neoprene coating in D/7410 (Akron Industrial Products Plant) and the coated stock is then used in D/1827 (Akron Aerospace and Defense Products Plant) for construction of expander brake tubes. This process has been in operation for the past 7 years, and it does not involve any significant dust exposure.

3. Asbestos rubber material compounded by an outside supplier is used in constructing some insulators at Plant 6 in Akron. The fabricated parts are then sent to D/1836 (Akron Aerospace and Defense Products Plant) for finish grinding. This procedure has been in operation for the past 10 years and has involved an average of 10-12 people. The same protective

procedures and examinations used in the Adhesives operation have been applied to the grinding operation in D/1886. There is no significant exposure in the Plant 6 operation.

4. An asbestos yarn is used to wrap hose in D/7675 (Akron Industrial Products Plant). This has been used since 1965. The Department of Industrial Hygiene and Toxicology maintains surveillance over the use of this material but the exposure is not considered to require special examinations.

5. An asbestos yarn is now being used in the production of furnace door hose at the Marion Plant. The volume of this type of hose is quite small and is run only 3 or 4 times a year. The area is well ventilated and dust respirators are provided employees. The level of exposure is not sufficient to require special examinations.

6. Limited quantities of asbestos have been used in mixing pipe insulation material in the Akron Plant. One man has engaged in this work, and he has been given regular pulmonary examinations. In recent years, asbestos has been largely replaced with other materials for this use.

7. Some other products made of asbestos, such as fire blankets, pre-cast insulation and siding material, are used in the manufacturing plants, but these materials are not used in a manner that represents a health hazard.

The B.F.Goodrich Company has long recognized the need for environmental controls in the use of asbestos. We have maintained strict surveillance over its use, and we believe we have maintained adequate control procedures to protect the health of our employees.

Please contact me if you desire additional information.

Very truly yours,

J. W. Reynolds
Director of Industrial Relations

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