FROM HAIG G. SAKOIAN

PITTSBURGH OFFICE - 7

TO MEMORANDUM

URGENT!-URGENT!

1979 July 03

RE: "SUPEREX 2000" POT LINING INSULATION

Johns-Manville Corporation's "Superex 2000" pot lining insulation has been found to contain relatively high concentrations of free silica and cristobalite. The allowable TLV for exposure by inhalation to this material is greatly reduced because the calculation of the TLV is based on the amount of free silica or cristobalite, i.e.,
TLV = $\frac{10\ mg/M^3}{\%\ Free\ Silica\ +2}$ for respirable dust -- or $\frac{30\ mg/M^3}{\%\ Free\ Silica\ +3}$
for total dust.

Sampling performed at several locations which use "Superex 2000" for pot lining indicate possible silica exposures above recommended limits even when employees are working with the material for only brief periods.

Mr. D. D. McGregor, Pittsburgh Office, has alerted all smelting Production Managers of this problem and recommended they minimize cutting and handling of this material. If it has not been done so already, it is recommended that sampling be performed for respirable dust, with analyses for percent of quartz and cristobalite, to assess employee exposures.

In the interim, based on sampling results from several locations, it is recommended that respiratory protection be afforded employees working with this material. Any respirator approved for pneumoconiosis and fibrosis-producing dusts would be acceptable. These include the 3M-8710; AO R2090 MSA Comfo II with Type F filters; and others.

If air sampling indicates airborne concentrations in excess of the protection factors afforded by these respirators (5 times the TLV for quarter-mask; 10 times the TLV for the half-mask), then more adequate respiratory protection... or better control... must be implemented.

Conversely, if sampling indicates no problem at your location, the requirement for respirators may be lifted. If control measures are implemented, follow-up sampling should be performed to test their effectiveness.

It is understood that some locations are already working towards a solution to this problem. Any information gained through such efforts which may be useful to other locations would be appreciated.

HAIG G. SAKOIAN

HGS/eds
Distribution: See Page 2

PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT AL-846

ALCOA

SF-4563

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