

FILE NAME: Union Carbide (UC)

DATE: 1970 Sept 9

DOC#: UC033

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Memo from Union Carbide Medical Dept RE Concern About Using Asbestos in Cigarettes



INTERNAL CORRESPONDENCE

UNION CARBIDE CORPORATION

370 PARK AVENUE, NEW YORK.

To (Name)
Company
Location

Mr. J. A. Riddle
Mining & Metals
King City, California

Date

September 9, 1970

Originating Dept.

Medical Department

Answering letter date

Subject

Copy to

M. P. Ballmer
F. J. Shortsleeve

J.
R.
R. C.
L. R.
R.J.
D. C.
R. C.
J.M.
A.A.
K. A.
G. L.
K. West
R. Rivera
D. Sowell
D. Garcia

Dr. Lane and I have discussed the question of using asbestos in rice paper for cigarettes and cigarette filters, and we view this use with a very considerable amount of concern. While it is possible that asbestos in a cigarette filter could be bonded with other materials so that none could escape into the air stream drawn through the cigarette, there would always be the possibility of some escaping and being drawn into the lungs where it might lead to the development of cancer to the lung. This possibility is made more serious by virtue of the fact that it has been demonstrated that asbestos workers in the United States apparently do not develop cancer of the lung unless they also smoke cigarettes. So you have here a situation in which an individual is exposed to asbestos and cigarette smoke at the same time. The implications for developing cancer of the lung are obvious.

As far as the question of asbestos in the cigarette paper is concerned we think it should be pointed out that the ash from such a cigarette would contribute to the atmospheric contamination of a room with asbestos dust. We are already concerned with the potential environmental contamination which would result from burning papers fabricated with asbestos in incinerators. This proposed use in cigarette papers brings this hazard even closer to people, and we do not believe it is an appropriate use for asbestos.

Very truly yours,

C. U. Dernehl, M. D.
Associate Medical Director

CUD:lk

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