

FILE NAME: Reynolds Metals (RM)

DATE: 1980 Oct 28

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DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Memo to Account Exec. RE Reynolds Aluminum Bldg Products Co. [Tilo] RE Asbestos Hazards & OSHA Concerns

THE TRAVELERS MEMORANDUM

DATE October 28, 1980

TO Account Executive Lee Molanus, SAM ENG. H.O.

SUBJECT: REYNOLDS ALUMINUM BLDG PRODUCTS COMPANY (TYLO)
 Stratford, CT
Industrial Hygiene Concerns

Lee:

Mr. Ed Radzvilowicz, Plant Engineer, expressed some concern to us that the last survey regarding possible health hazards from the fiber glass dust which is being produced in the shingle manufacturing operation. There have been a number of dermatitis cases reported since this new process was installed last spring. With the growing OSHA concern about possible health hazards associated with inhalation of this dust, I feel you should bring this up with your corporate headquarters contacts.

There has also been a new blower system installed which is used for the limestone transfer. It was reported to us that this new system operates at decible levels around 110 DBA. At the time of our survey, this equipment was not in operation but if this is the case, there could be a severe exposure to rapid hearing loss of a traumatic nature.

Another concern I have with this account from an industrial hygiene standpoint is from the asbestos fiber dust and debris which is still laying on the beams in the Aluminum Products Warehouse. There is also a lot of asbestos based material buried in the land behind the plant. Our concern is with the OSHA requirement that employees exposed to asbestos be notified. Does this apply to employees who may be digging or dumping scrap in this landfill area? From an environmental hazard viewpoint, the insured is dumping most of their solid waste behind the plant. Certainly from a pollution standpoint, this could not be classified as accidental discharges. There are numerous asphalt spills around the asphalt stills which combined with oil and other petroleum based products wash into the brook which goes through the property. I'm sure if the Environmental Protection Agency ever came in to take soil and water samples, they would find something to be concerned about. I don't know if the Reynolds Corporate Industrial Hygiene Department did any sampling in these areas or for the asbestos fibers in the Aluminum Products Warehouse, but you may want to check on this.

~~One of the employees who should be sampling is the breathing zone of the granular~~
~~hopper at the plant. This poor individual spends half of his workday in an elevated~~
~~area above the shingle line breathing in limestone dust, asphalt fumes and God~~
~~only knows what else.~~

On a different subject, I would be interested in obtaining the services of a boiler and electrical specialist to review the operational procedures for much of the plant equipment. I strongly suspect that many of the equipment operators have inadequate knowledge about the safe operation of the equipment. They have already burned up one of their boilers which only leaves them one operating boiler. Should they lose this boiler, the plant would have no recourse but to shut down. They recently destroyed a superheater. The asphalt stills appear

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Reynolds Aluminum Bldg Products Co. (TIL0)

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that they have not undergone any equipment updating on safety controls since the 1930's. The recent electrocution brought to light the inadequate knowledge many of the plant maintenance people have about electrical safety. Mr. Radzvilowicz informed us that the only employee out there with an electrical background is himself. Given these factors, the physical condition of the equipment, and apparent lack of proper training or background from any of the operators, there could be a serious accident involving this equipment and injuring employees. Such a survey also might be beneficial from a public relations standpoint with the corporate people.

If you have any question, give me a call.

Bill

WEL:jcl
cc:File

William E. Lischoid, CSP
Engineering Account Manager

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