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# THE AETNA CASUALTY AND SURETY COMPANY

HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

AFFILIATE OF

AETNA LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY  
THE AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE COMPANY  
THE STANDARD FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY

ENGINEERING AND INSPECTION  
DEPARTMENT

June 21, 1941

Mr. John A. Hill  
Eldress & Hill, C/A.,  
5th Flr., Home Bank Bldg.  
Toledo, Ohio

Dear Mr. Hill:

Re: Owens-Corning Fiberglas Corporation

I have learned from the field that there has been considerable discussion relative to the occupational disease hazard in the use of fiberglas. As you know, I have been very much interested in the study of silicosis over a period of years, especially from the research angle, and I can very frankly say that in all my experience I can not see any reason for stating that fiberglas is more hazardous than rock wool, slag wool or asbestos.

I believe that most articles covering occupational disease exposure definitely warn of the hazards of asbestosis growing out of the use of asbestos. Relative to the use of fiberglas, rock wool or slag wool, I have discussed this matter very thoroughly with our Medical Department insofar as it applies to the installation of glass wool and its relation to silicosis, and I know of no better answer to give you than their direct statement:

"We may definitely state that this is not possible, based upon the established fact that silicates of which glass wool is composed will not produce silicosis or a similar condition.

Free silica, which when inhaled in sufficient quantity will produce silicosis, is one of the ingredients of many varieties of glass. However, in the manufacturing process, the free silica chemically unites with other substances, leading to the production of silicates, and glass is a solid solution of these various silicates produced by the fusion of free silica with metallic oxides. Glass wool consists of glass in the form of very fine strands."

Dr. A. M. Gray, in his publication "Attorneys Textbook of Medicine," states:

"It is admitted that silicon dioxide is the only substance capable of producing silicosis."

I believe, from the statements given above and other findings which we can readily place before you, it will be agreed that silicosis can not be produced by silicates, and I, therefore, see no reason for the statements that have already been made, namely, "that fiberglas produces silicosis" because, insofar as I can find, this statement is contrary to fact.

Very sincerely yours,

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