FILE NAME: Asbestos Textile Product Use (ATPU)

DATE: 1988

DOC#: ATPU027

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Confidential Memos RE Croyden Asbestos Co. Ltd.

Unrolling cloth "dusty" 15/1425

EBG/BCr

CONFIDENTIAL

Copy of a memo to Mr. E. B. Gates from Mr. E. A. Edmonds, London Office dated 10th May

Croydon Asbestos Co. Ltd.

I have had a disquieting conversation with Mr. Humphreys who advises me in confidence that following a mass X-ray it is thought possible that Mr. Hinchcliffe is suffering from Asbestosis. Certainly Mr. Hinchcliffe has to undergo further examination but the immediate result is that the Factory Inspectors have been alerted to visit the Redhill Factory to assess the safety precautions taken.

Mr. Humphreys is confident that there is only one area where they are open to criticism and this relates to the usage of K.948 for making into asbestos blankets and curtains. As you know this cloth is supplied in large widths and the performance of unrolling the cloth and cutting it is a dusty one. Mr. Humphreys feels that there is no way by which they can solve this problem in their Works and he has obviously given it considerably thought. Consequently he is asking whether we can supply this cloth dust suppressed and how soon we can do it. If we are unable to help them then he feels this trade is at considerable risk.

I told Mr. Humphreys that even if we could offer this service which I doubted just at the moment, it would mean a noticeable increase in the price per square yard unless we could make some alterations to the weave of the cloth to have a compensating advantage in terms of weight. He thought that at the most they could only carry an increase of 2d. per square yard as the trade could not carry any more.

I can only ask you to let me have your comments at your early convenience.

(signed) E. A. Edmonds

[illegible]

[illegible]
To: T.H.
Copies: ACH/BAH/[illegible]

Dr. S. Holmes

CONFIDENTIAL

17th May, 1948.

Croydon Asbestos Co. Ltd.

Mr. Edmonds' letter of 10th May is most disturbing, and we must hope that the second examination gives Mr. Hinchcliffe a clean bill of health.

Whether it does or not, the task of developing a satisfactory dust-suppressant for K.948 (= K.51) is clearly very urgent.

You will have learned recently, in this connection, that the dust-suppressant applied to insulation cloths would not be appropriate here, and you may know that Mr. Heron of Chemical Research Department is now engaged on the very complicated task of devising alternative treatments for the various other applications of our cloth. As it happens, I suggested to Mr. Heron yesterday that K.51 in protective clothing manufacture is one of the applications most urgently requiring attention. I think only Mr. Heron could suggest how long it may be before a satisfactory treatment emerges, and I suggest you have a word with him on this before replying to Mr. Edmonds. Clearly Mr. Heron must not at this stage be constrained by considerations of the likely cost.

Am I right, please, in believing that Dr. Holmes has visited the Redhill factory? If he has, then his views about what might be done there to solve any dust problem would be highly relevant.

No!

H. H. Coles