FILE NAME: Sprayed Asbestos (SPRA)

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DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Letter to Mr. Ken Powell, Underwriters Lab from Barry Castleman RE Hazard from Deteriorating Ceilings & Plenum Surfaces Sprayed with Asbestos Fiber

December 4, 1978

Mr. Ken Howell
Division of Fire Protection
Underwriters Laboratory
333 Pfingsten
Northbrook, Illinois 60062

Dear Mr. Howell:

The Environmental Defense Fund is concerned about the hazard from deteriorating ceilings and plenum surfaces in buildings sprayed with fireproofing containing asbestos fiber. Asbestos-containing spray products were used in the U.S. for acoustic and decorative purposes since 1935, and theseproducts were also valued for thermal insulation properties. Beginning in the late 1950's, asbestos-containing spray materials were used for fireproofing of structural steel and other components of buildings. These spray products were loosely-bonded mixes as well as cementitious mixtures.

Now that these buildings, including schools, are deteriorating, there is a need to find out whether given structures were made with asbestos-containing formulations. In facing the problem of surveying and making renovations as needed, it will be important to learn more about the products used, what the markets for various products was, etc. Among other things, this will necessitate contacting the manufacturers of sprayed asbestos-containing products.

Underwriters certified most, if not all, of these products as meeting certain fire protection ratings. I am writing to ask you for a list of all the asbestos-containing spray products ever certified by U.L. If possible, we would like to know for each product the manufacturer, year of certification (and the city where the manufacturer was located).

We will certainly make the information you provide available to the Environmental Protection Agency, which is also trying to develop a program to protect the health of the public exposed to asbestos in these buildings.

If you have any questions or problems with this request, please call me at the above number or 301-834-7787. Your cooperation in this matter will be deeply appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Barry I. Castleman