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Sun Oil

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CANADIAN Johns-Manville CO., LIMITED

ASBESTOS FIBRE DIVISION

PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT
DMA-857

TEL. 879-5431

P. O. BOX 1500
ASBESTOS, QUEBEC

FLS for your files HMJ 11/27/67

November 24th, 1967

ASB 001717

CDD 246903

Mr. Donald R. Johnson,
Sun Oil Company,
1608 Walnut Street,
PHILADELPHIA, Penn. 19103.

Dear Mr. Johnson:

We have for acknowledgement your letter of November 13th and are pleased to provide the following information to the various questions raised in your letter of November 13th; in all cases in which asbestos is referred to below, such is the chrysotile variety.

We have attached a copy of the Quebec Asbestos Mining Association pamphlet describing the Quebec Screen Test. This test provides the basis for the pricing of asbestos fibre grades; the longer the fibre, the higher the price.

1] Your understanding, as expressed in the first two sentences of your Question 1, is absolutely correct. We would like, however, to substitute the word "shorter" for "finer" as basically it is the length distribution which we are establishing with the Q.S. machine. In contrast, the word "finer" denotes other meanings in asbestos technology, or as it might relate to specifications.

Asbestos fibre is not comminuted in a standard milling system. In fact, every effort is made in every process involved in the mining and milling of asbestos not to comminute it, even to the slightest degree. The reason for this is that higher prices are obtained for longer fibres.

Also, we would point out that the comminution of asbestos fibres is a very difficult process in a production system. Such could be accomplished by very severe grinding procedures of lengthly duration on a sample placed in a modern ball mill or such similiar industrial grinding equipment, but when you consider the constant flow of asbestos fibre through a mill, it is almost impossible to achieve any reduction in length of the fibres by such means.

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As an example, several years ago Group 3 fibre (used primarily in asbestos textiles), was in over supply and one asbestos producer attempted to comminute this grade in order to make a Group 4. Experimental work carried out with a variety of equipment, proved to be unsuccessful, and the project was abandoned. The inherent strength of the asbestos fibrils is such that they resist comminution to a very high degree.

CPCFL 0012735

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1] Continued

In a standard milling system, the longest fibres are aspirated first, since they are the first to be released from the serpentine rock. Progressively, shorter and shorter fibre lengths are recovered, following separate crushing stages, and the shortest of the Group 7 fibres are the last to be aspirated. A grade such as 4T consists of 2 ozs. on the 1/4 mesh, 10 ozs. on the 10 mesh and 4 ozs. in the pan (-10 mesh). In the milling system, we make a grade, such as 4T, by adding the various fibre fractions such that the test on the Q.S. machine will meet the length gradations as shown above.

2] "Flosal" asbestos is the actual grade recovered from the mill and it has never contained any longer fibres than those contained in the present product. The deposit from which Flosal is recovered contains only short fibre and we have never encountered any fibre which when tested on a Q.S. machine would exceed 1 oz. on the 10 mesh screen (1/16th of a pound).

In other words, Flosal is not a product of comminution, but rather it represents the natural fibre length occurring in the deposit.

3] Unfortunately, there are many things we do not know about asbestos with respect to its performance in a product or process. We do know that the asbestos fibre recovered from each deposit differs in physical and chemical properties. For example, one fibre is silky, another is harsh; one fibre is iron free, another has a high iron content; one fibre is high in chloride iron content, another is low and etc. Again, one brake lining manufacturer will tell us he cannot use our fibre because it does not produce the correct frictional properties in his linings, whereas another buys our fibre by the thousands of tons and would use no other.

Very frankly we do not know why Flosal performs so well in a drilling mud whereas the 7M in Example III did not perform comparatively. All we can say is that "it is the nature of the beast".

In reading the text of Patent No. 579,940, we can conclude only that Group 7 fibre is excluded and that Group 4 and 6 must be used to attain the necessary viscosities.

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Mr. Donald R. Johnson
Sun Oil Company

For your further information, we have attached a Certificate of Analysis of Floxal provided by the Q.A.M.A. Sherbrooke Laboratory. You will note that it would be classified as a Grade 7R in Q.S. terminology.

I trust that this rather lengthly dissertation will be of assistance to you.

Yours very truly,

M. W. MEWDRY,
General Sales Manager

MWM/bb

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