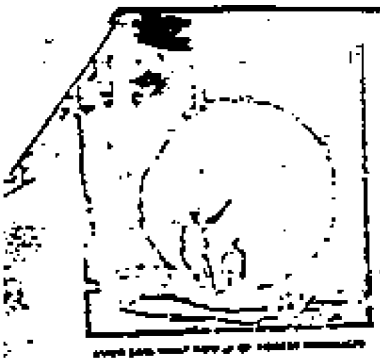
FILE NAME: Georgia Pacific (GP)

DATE: 1970 June 9

DOC#: GP107

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Letter from GP to Gypsum Association Safety Committee RE Liability & Placing Blame on Contractors



GEORGIA-PACIFIC CORPORATION

June 9, 1970

Mr. F. J. Rogers, Secretary
Gypsum Association Safety Committee
201 North Wells Street
Chicago, Illinois 60606

Dear Fred:

We believe the attached is of great importance to the Association and member companies.

You are aware that joint systems contain approximately 5% asbestos, some mica and the balance is limestone.

Based on threshhold limits adopted by A.C.G.I.H., mica (when exceeding 5% free silica) can be classed as a respiratory irritant. Asbestos is very harmful, however we question whether the percentage used in a formula and after it is mixed in a batch could be considered harmful.

We realize that someone will be the whipping boy, also product liability will be stressed. It is our opinion that the entire blame can be placed on the contractor, for not insisting on respirators and dust masks when sanding. We understand that dust samples will be obtained during a sanding operation and analysis made of the samples. We question this approach, the problem would be the large amount of dust, 10 microns or smaller that is generated by the sanding operation and breached by the individual.

We will keep you posted of any other problems that may develope. In all probability, U. S. Gypsum and National Gypsum have been alerted and we will be interested in their approach to minimizing the problem. Please send 500 "Watchful Wally" stickers and bill this office. Thank you.

Sincerely,

M. F. Fink
Safety Supervisor

MFF/ah

Attachment

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