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CPSC Asbestos in Hairdryers -- US Archives to Josh Haffner 5/19/05

The first file is marked "Restricted - Product - Dryers/Stylers" and I do not know if they will allow Restricted files to be duplicated. It may even be that these files should not have been included in those available to the public. So I am making notes, will then attempt to make copies here, today, of what look like important hairdryer (HD) documents, and will then ask for the whole collection to be copied and certified by the Archives.

"Restricted - Product - Dryers/Stylers" 109 pp

-- 7/23/81 memo has att. table of sales volumes of HD's by mfr. For various periods in the 1970s, presumably these numbers of asbestos units were sold by the named firms. Conair, GE, and Gillette are among the biggest.

9/11/79 memo from Preuss has data on 2 HDs incl. Clairol Super Zap (SZ-1) using NIOSH methods, reporting pickup of measured amounts of "airborne structures".

Notarized Clairol letter from RP Barry 4/10/79 lists asbestos products as Son-of-a-Gun (Style TD-1, TD-2), US distribution in 1976-1978 of 1,780,000, Taiwan mfgrs. named. Also smaller no. of salon use products through their Products Div. 1975-79, ~ 62,000-72,000. Tests so far showed no asbestos emission, they said more tests ongoing that will be reported to CPSC. [Were they?]

Between a memo from OSHA saying CPSC can go ahead without trampling on OSHA's territory and a GE memo to the public -- is a page from I don't know what, listing almost 2 million "defective products distributed in commerce" between 1967-1977 nationwide. Next is a tab and partial note (also starting with the number 4 at the top of page) listing 5,650,000 "defective products distributed in commerce" between 1972-1979 naming GE (this one obviously from GE). Subsequent pages, out of order, describe GE's corrective actions.

** There was no problem making copies of restricted documents. Upon completion of this file, I asked to make copies, and I was allowed to do so. So I will make short work of the rest and try to order the whole collection before they close in 40 minutes.

Product - Dryers/Stylers, Hair -1- Ids Only 310 pp

Restricted-Product-Dryers/Stylers -4- Replies to May 14, 1979 Special Orders 221 pp

Four Hair Dryers and One Heat Gun (first entry) 309 pp

... Replies to June 4 and July 12, 1979 Special Orders 31 pp

_____ 118 pp

... Replies to 4/10/79 Special Orders 252 pp.

The ritual is I have to count the pages, which I quickly determined was close to 1350 pp and arranged the procedure for the procurement of the files. I'm too late for the cashier and will have to return to pay and put the process into motion. However, I will stay late today and continue selecting documents to copy on my own before turning this all in for copying and certification. This will cost $675 + 36 = $711.

End of day: I have copied exchanges with CPSC and Gillette, Clairol, GE, and Conair from all the files, and am FedEx'ing this to you. I did not have time to copy the documents annotated above, except the Clairol letter. So you have at least a few examples of what is in the total collection and not in the FedEx package I am sending you.

I will hold off ordering certified copies of these files/documents until I hear from you.