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Reichhold Chemicals, Inc.

Inter-Office Communication

To: D. L. Wasson-Azusa
cc: R. H. Melinat-Azusa
R. K. Stensrud
C. L. Allyn

From: Tacoma
Date: June 16, 1975
Subject: Polyester Thix Agents

Dear Don:

Due to the fantastic price increase of airborne silica, I looked into using asbestos for polyesters in Tacoma. There are substantial savings involved which appear to justify the administrative annoyances required in handling asbestos. I figured on starting out in Tacoma and then giving you the procedures worked out and our experience with them. That was 6 months ago. In the meantime, the proposed control and measurement procedures for many more materials have come out, which appear to be as miserable as for asbestos. We can't avoid them all and, for example, a medical might as well cover 400 as one compound.

We worked out a system to monitor and control asbestos exposure using Madden's suggestions and that of Union Carbide who make the product. Tom's procedures are a bit more complicated for our circumstances than appear necessary, assuming we establish the fiber count is low enough in the working area. Some simplifications are:

1. Use paper overalls which are bundled, along with the empty bags, in plastic sacks, tied off and put in the garbage. You still have to label the sacks and inform the refuse collectors, but they aren't exposed. Further, there is no hassle with the laundry.
2. With suitable ventilation, the monitoring and medicals required initially don't have to be repeated with such frequency.

I believe the first step in the plant is to have a meeting with all personnel who could normally come in contact with asbestos and, as with vinyl chloride (and now others) explain the hazard and means of control, monitoring and all OSHA requirements. Those involved would be the people who receive the asbestos and move it in the warehouse, those who transfer it from there to the blend tanks and who dump and package the bags. I assume that, given the procedures to protect them, the people would go along with the program. If they don't, you might as well abandon the idea. Remember the similar procedures coming up for other common materials where we may not have an option though.

When the idea is accepted, you can go on to the introduction of asbestos into the plant and the initial monitoring measurements. Union Carbide will work closely with you to develop the procedures and implement them. I'll put you in touch, if you wish.

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D. L. Wasson

Page 2

June 16, 1975

As I said, I figured on doing this first in Tacoma, but we don't seem to find time to reformulate the thix resins for asbestos. Your people have formulations available already and could move on it soon.

The recent skirmish with the APCD on silica going into the atmosphere prompted me on asbestos use. Asbestos won't fly around as much as silica. That diaphragm pump Floyd Boak is using for silica could work on asbestos and reduce dust still further.

To avoid introducing 10-15 different products, it would be necessary to convert all thix resins to asbestos and eliminate silica.

After you and others have considered this, please let me know your decision. Probably, you would want to talk with the Union Carbide people prior to reaching a decision. I am enclosing recent literature on the subject.

Very truly yours,



R. B. Walker

RBW:sp
Enclosures

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