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INTEROFFICE CORRESPONDENCE
GAF Corporation

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DATE March 2, 1972

TO Mr. V. J. Laskoski
LOCATION New York

FROM Mr. I. E. Matthews
LOCATION Vermont

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SUBJECT: ASBESTOS DUST CONTROL - PACKAGING

Ref: the following letters:

The Dow Chemical Co., Plaquemine, La. 2/16/72
Crane Packing Co., Morton Grove, Ill. "
General Electric Co., Pittsfield, Mass. "
New England Insulation Co., Canton, Mass. "

The problems of handling and shipping asbestos fibre in a manner that will not produce dust are numerous and in many cases complicated to the degree where it would not be practical, either physically or economically. To arrive at a proper solution to all cases will be time consuming and with our limited staff could result in additional aid from engineering consultants. With all this in mind, and with the hope that we do not find ourselves in customized packaging (more than we are currently exposed to) we should consider the following:

1. What are the regulations in regard to shipping and handling of asbestos fibre?
2. If we are required to use a dust free package, then develop one and standardize on it for all grades of fibre, wherever possible.
3. Calculate the cost of this package and determine who is to absorb the cost.

Taking each of the four inquiries separately, I have the following comments:

The Dow Chemical Co., Plaquemine, La.

We are currently using a woven poly bag for Hooker #1 & Hooker #2. We were using a poly liner in the burlap bags (Kaiser) before we shifted to the woven poly. Now we are shipping all in poly without liners. We could go back to using poly liners in the woven poly bags. The extra charge was \$5.00 per ton to take care of the liners and extra labor involved. This is not, however, a complete answer as the liner is sometimes broken when the bag is put through the bag flattener.

As for the 7M5 fibre in compression packed bags with a poly slip cover, we do not have an answer to this problem but it is under study by Jim Gilmore. Cost may be an important factor.

Crane Packing Co.

We do not have any answers to this method of packaging, however, it is under study.

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General Electric Co.

From what we know about bulk handling, I would say that it would be out of the question, either by truck or rail.

To the best of my knowledge there is only one or two Canadian producers that are shipping any fibre by bulk. JM has one customer that takes a seven group fibre in bulk, by rail. The equipment is expensive on both ends and according to some of JM's personnel it should not be considered unless there was at least 5,000 tons per year involved. They also stated that it was a real headache and they wished someone else had this customer. I have also been informed that Philip Carey is shipping some fibre in bulk.

Our present thinking is a semi-bulk package that is a container and would hold 1,000 to 2,000 lbs., that can be sealed and handled with a fork lift. We think this would be the most practical way and we are proceeding along these lines.

New England Insulation Co.

We know of no producer that is shipping fibre in this kind of a package. The bag they were referring to was experimental. If it ever becomes practical, special equipment will be necessary. We will follow up on this, both with the bag manufacturers and the asbestos producers, to try to find out more information.

At present any studies that are being made on this problem are being made by our present staff, mostly Jim Gilmore, therefore, with the limits that we have the answers to all these questions are not going to be immediate but we will keep plugging away.

I. E. Matthews
I. E. Matthews

IEM/vv

GAF 11262