

Reeddale

Mr. G. Barge,
Atlas Asbestos Company,
Montreal,
Canada.

HCL/ES
To : GB
Copy : HSDH

2nd May, 1975

NOTICE

Re : Industrial Diseases Relating To Asbestos

Thank you for your note of April 22nd, 1975, regarding the proposals contained in the above mentioned notice.

Diffuse malignant mesothelioma of the pleura has been a prescribed disease eligible for industrial injuries benefit and death benefit in the U.K. since 1964. An occupational exposure has to be proven, thus excluding neighbourhood and domestic causes.

Carcinoma of the lung is not recognised as being due to asbestos exposure unless it is associated with asbestosis. The degree of asbestosis is not specified and it is sufficient to be able to demonstrate the presence of change which could be due to asbestos exposure. Carcinoma of the lung in asbestosis workers not suffering from asbestosis is not accepted for the purposes of industrial injuries benefit payments. It is impossible to state in an asbestos worker who smokes cigarettes and who develops a lung cancer in the absence of asbestosis that the cancer would be attributable to anything other than cigarette smoking. Epidemiological findings however indicate that cancer of the lung occurs eight times more frequently in asbestos workers who smoke than in asbestos workers who do not smoke and ninety times more frequently than in the non-smoking non-exposed population. It would, therefore, appear that asbestos exposure enhances the carcinogenic effects of tobacco smoke. In my opinion, therefore, it is justifiable to prescribe cancer of the lung associated with asbestosis as an industrial tumour but not in the absence of asbestosis.

I hope that these few remarks are of assistance to you in drafting your reply to the Work Men's Compensation Board of the Province of British Columbia.

W. G. Tardif

ATLAS ASBESTOS COMPANY

FROM G. Barge

76/1204-10

TO Dr. H.C. Lewinsohn
TBA Industrial Products

COPY TO HDSH

April 22, 1975

I would appreciate your opinion of the following proposal by the Workmen's Compensation Board of the Province of British Columbia.

As you will note on the enclosed bulletin, they are proposing that in any industry process where there is exposure to airborne asbestos fibres any case of mesothelioma will be considered due to employment. The same will apply to carcinoma of the lung, when associated with asbestosis.

The Board has given industry until the end of May to express opinions on this proposal.

G. Barge

PLANTIFF'S
EXHIBIT
JUN 2 1975