

FROM THOMAS B. BONNEY
PITTSBURGH OFFICE

TO



1978 July 28

RE: ELIMINATION OF UNNECESSARY USE OF ASBESTOS-CONTAINING MATERIALS

Over the past six years, primarily by means of Industrial Hygiene Newsletters, we have attempted to discourage the use of asbestos at all of our operating locations. We have taken this position for two reasons. First, excessive exposure to asbestos represents a real hazard. Second, compliance with the applicable OSHA standard costs us money which we would not have to spend if substitute materials were used (e.g., for air sampling, medical surveillance, disposal procedures, etc.). Although our plants have made impressive headway, it appears that our goal of eliminating unnecessary asbestos usage is not yet at hand.

As we visit our plants, we still see asbestos products being used. We suspect that for many of them there are asbestos-free, functionally acceptable alternates. Because continued use of asbestos products may result in unnecessary health hazards and concerns to our employees as well as additional costs to Alcoa to comply with specific provisions of the OSHA standard, we believe that it is in Alcoa's best interest to eliminate the use of asbestos products wherever possible. To accomplish this objective requires that first we know for what specific applications it is presently being used. Therefore, we request that you survey your location to provide us with information about your plant's use of asbestos. The attached form indicates the data that is required and can be used for submitting your survey results. We ask that you submit the results of your survey by 1978 September 01.

Upon receipt we will compile a listing of current usage throughout Alcoa. With the assistance of appropriate plant and Pittsburgh personnel, we will place each usage into one of four categories:

- (1) No foreseeable employee exposures; substitutes available.
- (2) No foreseeable employee exposures; no viable substitutes available.
- (3) Potential employee exposures; substitutes available.
- (4) Potential employee exposures; no viable substitutes available.

Following classification, with the aid of appropriate Pittsburgh and plant personnel, we will work toward a prompt and orderly replacement of all items in category "3". Jointly, we will further consider if there is merit to taking the same action for any or all of those materials in category "1".



APC 003145

This, of course, will require a determination of whether the economic consequences would justify such action. Our ultimate aim is to provide the plants with the information necessary to attain effective control over their use of asbestos. To help accomplish this, we will provide you with information about substitute materials. Eventually, we will publish a list of "approved" asbestos products and applications (i.e., those for which there are no currently viable substitutes) to offer guidance for purchasing, production, industrial hygiene, and other interested plant personnel. We ask your cooperation in collecting the information needed to make this possible.

THOMAS B. BONNEY

TBB:lmn

Attachment

Letter sent to Industrial Hygienists

Copies sent to:

M. J. Caprio, Pittsburgh 19AB	G. H. Farrah, EHL, Alcoa Technical Center
J. Z. Nelson, Pittsburgh 3WPH	W. W. Williams, Fort Meade, Fla.
N. Kloap, Arkansas Works	J. B. Dolan, Lafayette Works
R. C. Hinkle, Badin Works	G. R. Hartnett/Albert Lee, HC Products Co., Princeville, Ill.
J. D. Breazeal, Davenport Works	J. R. Archibald, Pittsburgh 7AB
H. E. Chandler, Tifton	P. R. Atkins, Pittsburgh 7AB
R. K. Morrow, Massena Works	B. D. Dinman, Pittsburgh 7AB
E. B. Parker, Rockdale Works	W. B. Garyotis, Pittsburgh 2AB
W. S. Stroud, Tennessee Works	R. V. Newsome, Mobile Works
J. A. Blessinger, Vancouver Works	

Works

Date

ASBESTOS SURVEY

Item	Product Description ¹	Specific Application	Dept.	Dust Generated? ²	
				yes	no
1					Don't Know
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					
11					
12					
13					
14					
15					

Note 1. List should include specifications for all asbestos products currently being purchased and used. It should not include previously installed asbestos materials that are still in place but for which non-asbestos replacements are currently being used.

Note 2. Should be answered in light of currently available information. A product will be considered capable of generating significant airborne concentrations of asbestos fibers if the measured or estimated fiber concentrations are in excess of 0.1 fiber per cc (eight-hour time-weighted average). In responding to this question, it will be necessary to consider the possibility of dust being generated not only during installation, but also during use and, where applicable, dismantling.

Letter 1978 July 28 re eliminating asbestos went to the following industrial hygienists:

D. E. Thompson, Addy, Washington
D. E. Wilkinson, Anderson County Works
J. M. Plunkett, ATC
J. F. Dey, Arkansas Works
Earl M. Morgan, Badin Works
V. Locke, Jr., Wear-Ever, Chillicothe
L. L. Grubb, Cleveland
J. V. Muncie, Corona
K. W. Williams, Davenport
S. Huey, Rea Magnet, Fort Wayne
W. D. Coker, Lafayette
L. M. Crivaro, Lancaster
R. Andrew, Lebanon
W. D. Helmick, Logans Ferry
T. V. Byerley, Marshall
G. D. Hicks, Massena
W. J. Boutreis, Mobile
R. E. Podhora, Point Comfort
J. D. Gibbs, Richmond
A. G. Clayton, Rockdale
J. C. Vergho, Tennessee
L. L. Haisch, Vancouver
D. P. Hooghkirk, Vernon
R. L. Parsons, Warrick

ROBERT P. CARTER
HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT
PITTSBURGH OFFICE, 7AB

&

M. J. CAPRIO
PURCHASING DEPARTMENT
PITTSBURGH, 19AB

30Mar76

RE: ALTERNATES FOR ASBESTOS AND ASBESTOS-CONTAINING MATERIALS

In October, 1975, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) published a proposed revision to its standard for worker exposure to asbestos which will drastically reduce the permissible time-weighted average (TWA) permissible fiber count and also reduce the permissible ceiling or short term exposure for 15-minute periods. In the Industrial Hygiene Newsletter dated 19Nov75, which went to all works Industrial Hygienists, the possible impact of the proposed changes was reviewed on a paragraph-by-paragraph basis.

As stated near the end of that Newsletter, this proposed revision, which may not become final until late 1976, makes it highly desirable for us to replace the use of asbestos and asbestos-containing materials with non-asbestos material in every situation where the use of asbestos can result in worker exposure to airborne fiber. This, of course, has to be based upon functional suitability of the non-asbestos containing replacement material. This replacement, however, should not be based on strict cost equivalence since the costs of medical surveillance, air sampling and analysis, and training as required by the proposed standard are very considerable.

In order to facilitate this conversion, Mr. A. E. Kean of the Pittsburgh Purchasing Department has agreed that Mr. M. J. Caprio of his group will serve as a clearing house, or contact person, for plant locations seeking alternate non-asbestos materials with satisfactory functional performance. In order for this to be as effective as possible, Mr. Caprio will need to know what physical and chemical properties are required for the application, defined as fully as practicable. As necessary, he will consult with Dr. R. G. LaBar of Alcoa Technical Center for assistance.

According to Mr. J. A. Dunbar of the Ingot, Pigment, Powder and Paste Division, satisfactory non-asbestos alternates have been established for all significant melting and casting applications, except for some applications of Molten Metal Marinite (MMM). Extensive plant evaluation of the alternate material developed for MMM is actively underway. If significant problems are encountered with any of these established alternates, Mr. Dunbar or Dr. LaBar should be made aware of these promptly.

30Mar76

Page 2

If you have already discovered a satisfactory replacement for asbestos in an application which may be involved at another works location, it would be very helpful if you could make Mr. Caprio aware of enough of the particulars so that he could recommend evaluation of such a material where appropriate in similar situations.

Please contact Mr. Robert P. Carter if he can be of any help with respect to whether the proposed asbestos standard would apply to a particular use situation and thereby make seeking an alternate material desirable.

ROBERT P. CARTER
M. J. CAPRIO

MJC:RPC:lmn

Letter to: Industrial Hygienists and District Purchasing Agents

Note: Information relative to health standards proposed or promulgated under authority of the U. S. Occupational Safety and Health Act is sent to overseas locations for informational purposes only.

cc:

Works Physicians
Works Engineering Managers and Works Chief Engineers
Environmental Health Steering Committee
Chairmen & Environmental Managers
G. H. Farrah, ATC, Alcoa Center, Pa.
Dr. R. G. LaBar, ATC, Alcoa Center, Pa.
L. W. Ortlip, EHL, Alcoa Center, Pa.
J. M. Plunkett, ATC, Alcoa Center, Pa.
Duckworth Daley, Jamaica
G. R. Hartnett/Albert Lee - HC Products Co.
W. W. Williams, Fort Meade, Florida
J. M. Cohen, Pittsburgh 7AB
M. O. Colwell, Pittsburgh 29AB
H. W. Cooley/J. Z. Nelson, Pittsburgh 3WPH
B. D. Dinman, M.D., Pittsburgh 7AB
J. A. Dunbar, Pittsburgh 23AB
W. B. Garyotis, Pittsburgh 2AB
F.J. McGrath/P.A. Haas, Pittsburgh 20AB
A. E. Kean, Pittsburgh 19AB
S. I. Roth, Pittsburgh 9AB
V. W. Rieke, Pittsburgh 2AB
R. H. Watson, Pittsburgh 7AB
Copy routed to PRA, GCH, RS

APC 003150