FILE NAME: National Gypsum (NG)

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Gold Bond

NATIONAL GYPSUM COMPANY

Gold Bond

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INTEROFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

2-17

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Subject: Asbestos Dust

Date: April 15, 197(

From: F. H. Zimmerm

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Attached is a copy of the "Recommended Safe Practices for Handling Asbestos Fiber". This pamphlet published by Johns-Manville is made available to anyone handling J-M Asbestos Fiber. It basically states the safe practices that J-M enforces in all their plants. It is well written without using scare tactics, and I would recommend that each Plant Manager study it carefully and apply the recommendations to the handling of Asbestos products in their respective plants.

This department recently received information to the effect that the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists has recommended to all Federal agencies that the Threshold Limit for Asbestos be reduced from the present limit of 12 fibers per milliliter greater than 5 microns in length to 5 fibers per milliliter. This drastic reduction would lower the impinger method of 2 millions of particles per cubic foot of air to less than 1, and make impinger methods of counting dust almost impossible. This new recommendation will be in effect very shortly under the Walsh-Healey Act and other Federal and State regulations.

The responsibility of meeting Threshold Limits of exposure to any dust is the responsibility of the employer. Recently Robert D. Gide Director of the Office of Occupational Safety, U. S. Department of Labor, said - "It will be left to individual companies to hire their ... examining and consulting experts, but the Federal government will ... in securing corrective measures whenever possible."

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Gidel also said - "Special knowledge is needed in determining the proper control measures and protective equipment and devices to be used when hazardous substances are used or generated. Access to such knowledge must be provided either by full time staff employees, consultants, or persons specifically trained in the subject area. Certain recognized agencies test and approve equipment and devices for use in specially hazardous situations. Persons competent to evaluate and prescribe appropriate approved control procedures and devices must be used to assure the meeting of the intent and purpose of the law."

From the above statements on reduction of the Threshold Limits, the statements of Gidel, the National attention that is being given to environmental health and the new occupational compensation laws that are being proposed for the payment of respiratory problems, it becomes obvious that the immediate importance of compliance by National Gypsum plants must rate a high priority.

It is the suggestion of this department that each plant that has not had dust counts made in the subject area request that they be made immediately by our insurance carrier's Engineering Department. If they cannot handle the request, I would suggest that we be notified in order that other arrangements can be made. Although this problem is urgent, there is no reason for panic. It can be handled and this department will be of any service that you may request.

F. H. Zimmerman
Director of Safety

FHZ:rs
Attach.

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