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868

Corporate Trumbull

TO: Mr. M. Q. Scowcroft

February 16, 1977

On several occasions the question has come up as to whether or not Raybestos-Manhattan can or should make statements to the effect that our products can be used safely if properly handled.

Unfortunately, we cannot use the word safe simply because we do not know what a safe level of exposure is. Science has not yet been able to establish a level of exposure below which disease will not occur because insufficient time has lapsed to permit epidemiological studies of occupational groups working under modern well controlled conditions.

Although we must not use the word safe, perhaps we can devise some kind of language to indicate to customers that, on the basis of field tests we have conducted, R/M dust suppressed textiles can be handled without exposing the worker to airborne concentrations in excess of OSHA standards providing proper work practices are observed. I realize that any such statement would probably be rather awkward and perhaps not very effective as a sales tool, but I don't see that we have much choice in the matter.

If it is intended to go ahead with such an approach, field tests used as a basis for making a statement should be carefully documented preferably by an independent testing laboratory.

I am enclosing a copy of work practice instructions for reducing asbestos dust during brake servicing. This is included in the Raybestos passenger car catalog and is distributed along with other material to persons inquiring about brake servicing procedures. You will note that the word safe is avoided.

John H. Marsh

/as

Enclosure

cc: Messrs. R. B. Sims
I. H. Weaver
Drs. H. C. Lewinsohn
J. J. Hagenheimer

PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT 70

JHM

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Raybestos Manhattan

Corporate Trumbull
DIVISION and LOCATION

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TO: Mr. R. B. Sims

March 31, 1978

Because inhalation of asbestos fibers can cause disabling and fatal diseases, R/M has compelling reasons to provide caution labels and work practice instructions with asbestos containing materials.

The company has a moral obligation to warn its customers that improper handling of its products may generate hazardous airborne concentrations of asbestos fibers and it has a duty to comply with government regulations. Failure to provide such information in the past, because of ignorance of the hazard, has resulted in enormous potential financial liability.

Caution labels are placed on packages of Automatic Transmission Plates because abrasion in shipment can cause asbestos-containing dust to accumulate in the packages.

Lined brake shoes are rarely ground in the field but when they are, excessive airborne dust concentrations can be created if proper precautions are not taken. In addition, brake service mechanics are exposed to asbestos-containing dust when removing used brake shoes and must take precautions to avoid inhaling it.

By providing caution labels and work practice instructions we are doing our best to protect our customers from asbestos-related disease and the company from future product liability claims.

John H. Marsh

/as

CC: Dr. H. C. Lewinsohn
Mr. J. O. Pearson
Mr. I. H. Weaver