FILE NAME: Asbestos Sacks and Bags (ASB)

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TURNERS ASBESTOS FIBRES LTD.
MANCHESTER

MR. J.C.T. FELL	TO MR. D. W. HILLS, Turner Brothers Asbestos Co. Ltd.

TO RMB/JW/MFH

11th November 1965.

Dust-Proof Bags

Further to my letter of 4th November, I enclose a copy of a further letter which indicates that Trade Union officials in the London Docks have not responded favourably to the Ministry of Labour's view that special precautions in the handling of asbestos fibre were unnecessary when impermeable bags were used.

We must hope that they modify their attitude when they have had first-hand experience of handling a cargo of Canadian asbestos in impermeable bags of paper-lined jute. This type of bag is also being adopted by Bell Asbestos Mines Ltd. and Cassiar Asbestos Corporation for their shipments to the United Kingdom. We have not experienced any difficulties with the Trade Union involved in handling shipments packed in polythene-lined hessian bags which we are adopting for African fibres.

We shall keep you advised of any further developments.

J.C.T. FELL.

JCTF/MH
Enc.

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TELEPHONE: FOX Lane 1318

DIRECTORS: W. S. BRAZIER M. J. BRAZIER W. A. JANITCH.

TELEGRAMS: SOTSEBSA LONDON N14

A. A. Brazier & Co. (Asbestos) Ltd.,

NEWBY HOUSE • 309 CHASE ROAD • LONDON N.14

SOLE REPRESENTATIVES IN GREAT BRITAIN AND EIRE FOR:- ASBESTOS CORPORATION LIMITED THETFORD MINES, QUE., CANADA.

J.C.T. Fell Esq.,
Turners Asbestos Fibres Ltd.,
Faulkner House, Faulkner Street,
Manchester 1.

9 November, 1965

RECD 11 NOV 1965

Dear Mr Fell,

Further to my letter of the 26th October, a meeting of the Ocean Shipowners' Group Joint Committee and the Unions, was held to discuss the Ministry of Labour's Report concerning the health hazards through handling Asbestos at London Docks.

The results of this meeting can be seen from the attached letter sent out by the London Shipowners Dock Labour Committee, a copy of which was forwarded to me by Mr D.L. Bennett.

In view of the continued urgency of the situation, I have requested Mr Bennett and Canadian Pacific to endeavour to bring forward the date of this meeting.

The article in the "Sunday Times" on mesothelioma and subsequent articles in the "Guardian" and "Northern Echo" on November 1st, were based on an article by Dr Muriel Newhouse and copies of this Paper can be obtained from the British Medical Association, Tavistock Square, W.C.1., price 18/6d.

As soon as I received news from the Ministry of Labour that their Report was to be published and their main receommendation was that Asbestos should be packed in impervious containers, I contacted Canadian Pacific and was able to persuade them to accept consignments of 200 tons on steamers sailing to London, commencing with the s.s. "BEAVERFIR" on 17th November. It was felt that this toonage should be divided equally amongst the Canadian Producers and accordingly, Asbestos Corporation Limited, Canadian Johns-Manville, Lake Asbestos and Carey Canadian Mines Ltd., were asked to make available 50 tons packed only in glue laminated paper lined jute bags for the first consignment.

I am hopeful that if the proposed meeting cannot be brought forward, this steamer will have arrived in London and I will endeavour to arrange for Union representatives etc., to see this type of packing, prior to the meeting.

I have also written to Asbestos Corporation Limited, suggesting that if Canadian Pacific continue to accept 200 tons on subsequent steamers, after the s.s. "BEAVERFIR", then the Traffic Managers of all Producers should get together to allocate the space on an equitable basis, and I have heard from Canada that this is being done. I trust you will be in agreement with the above steps.

I naturally regret that I have no better news for you, as I have been very hopeful that the Ministry of Labour's Report, recommending impervious containers, would have solved the problem of handling at London Docks.

As soon as there is any further news, I will of course advise you.

Yours sincerely,

M J Brazier

ALL OFFERS ARE MADE WITHOUT ENGAGEMENT & SUBJECT TO MINES ACCEPTANCE

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Rochdale.

Mr. J.C.T. Fell,
Turners Asbestos Fibres Ltd.,
Manchester.

DWH/PW
Copies to : RMB/JW/MFH

16th November 1965.

Dust-Proof Bags

Thank you for your letter of the 11th November and it was good of you to send me copies of letters from both Mr. Brazier and from the Secretary of the London Shipowners Dock Labour Committee. In his letter Mr. Brazier refers to the paper by Dr. Muriel Newhouse; if you wish to have a copy of this I can readily send you one. The article in the Sunday Times referred to in Mr. Bennett's letter certainly has a lot to answer for particularly as, except for a brief reference towards the end of it, it didn't emphasise how rare mesothelioma is.

D.W. Hills.