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Rochdale

Mr. A.C. Mann

A.2/MAR
All Branch Offices
pies: ACM/3 file

15th March 1967

I.C.I. Ltd. and C.E.G.B.

We have received reports that certain officials at both the above are concerned about the health hazards of using asbestos and are set on finding suitable alternatives wherever possible. With I.C.I., this seems to be confined at the moment to their Paints Division but naturally might spread to other Divisions. Mr. Wilkinson of Newcastle Office has seen a Mr. Elmes at Billingham who told him that their medical advisers had come to the conclusion that where it is technically or economically feasible insulation materials which do not contain asbestos should be used. Mr. Elmes confirmed that there was no actual ban on the use of asbestos and of course Paints Division are not great users of cloth for insulation purposes.

With regard to C.E.G.B. we have received a copy from them of their Stores Standard and Specification with a request that we should let them know which asbestos items could be replaced by glass fibre materials. This for the moment has been dealt with by suggesting that Mr. Morant visits them to discuss the situation.

The point seems to be that the anti-asbestos attitude at present is more prevalent with certain officials and should not involve to any large extent T.B.A. materials.

*Revised by
in LAB*

The emphasis appears to be on asbestos materials used for insulation purposes and so far the qualities with which we supply I.C.I. on contract through Witty & Wyatt do not seem to be affected.

This is a rather abbreviated setting out of the situation and we would like you to know something of

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what is going on and we know that if you come across any evidence in your territory of the same sort of thing with I.C.I. or C.E.G.B. or anyone else for that matter you will let us know at once.

S. Howarth.