

TRANSLATION

(Article from "defazet" January 1972)

[DEUTSCHE FARBEZEITUNG]

Obituary on An Irreplaceable Product

Another raw material producer became the victim of the hysteria on health hazards and this time it is a material which is nearly irreplaceable due to its exceptional properties: a special upgraded asbestos. The fibrous particles of this material are of a length up to 10 micron with an exceptionally small diameter of only 0.02 to 0.03 micron. Degussa, who have developed this material offer it as a thickening agent under the name of A-28 and A-14 (longer and stronger fibre tufts). Many producers utilized the advantageous properties, f.i. in sealing compounds, artificial stone coatings, Plastisols, epoxy systems and many other applications. Beside the extraordinary thickening effect, this material has also other advantages such as high chemical resistance, no moisture pick-up, insolubility in all systems, defined particle size, easy incorporation, all-round utilization independent of polarity of the system and stability of standardized thickening ranges.

This material is said to develop cancer.

Certainly, it cannot be excluded with certainty that somebody working a long time only with this material may get a cancer one day, but an indisputable proof that this illness can be traced back to the influence of a special asbestos product is nearly impossible. In case the person is a smoker, the proof is absolutely impossible. Cancer may also be developed by street dust or any other pollution, as these materials contain also particles of different shape and size the effect of which we do not know exactly.

You can see that this is only fantasy which is not understandable in this scientific age.

The question for a substitute of A-28 and A-14 cannot be answered. Similar effects will be tried by reworking the formulations.

Which will be the next product to disappear from the raw material market?

At present one is eagerly digging in dust-heaps.

HLM/km
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