

FILE NAME: Eagle-Picher (EP)

DATE: 1940-1962

DOC#: EP011

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Letters & Memo

July 21, 1960

Mr. Richard B. Seemery
Insurance Adjuster
43 Stoneybrook
San Francisco 12, California



Subject: Your File No. 60-461

Dear Mr. Seemery:

Please pardon the delay in replying to your letter of July 8, 1960, which was held for my attention upon my return from the West Coast. It so happened that I was in San Francisco at the time you wrote your letter.

We do not have any record of having sold the Actna Steel Products Corporation any of our mineral wool insulation materials during the period of 1946 through 1948, nor do we have any record of our materials having been installed on the ships "President Wilson" and "President Cleveland" at the Bethlehem Shipyard, Alameda, California.

It is possible, however, that some of our materials shipped to the Richmond yards could have been transferred to some other yard and applied on these ships. We would not, of course, have any record of such transfer or such usage.

We are attaching a piece of literature which will serve to describe the products which we were selling at that time to the marine industry for the insulating of cargo ships. The material is a fibrous material made from lead blast furnace slag and, naturally, has the same chemical composition as the slag from which it is made, the chemical analysis of which is listed below:

SiO ₂	37 to 40%
FeO	23 to 27%
Ca	20 to 22%
Alumina	8 to 12%
MgO	1 1/2 to 4%
Lead & Zinc Oxide	3%

All of these elements are in the form of a very complex combined silicate so that none of the elements are separate and free. The mineral fiber is practically insoluble in water, hot or cold. There is no asbestos whatsoever in the material and, therefore, should not be confused with an asbestos product. The production of this material, over a period of some 30 years,

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Mr. Richard E. Beaudry
San Francisco 12, California

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is not considered to be a hazardous occupation by those who work with it day in and day out over a long period of years. It is, therefore, hardly conceivable that a product of this type would contribute to the cause of the complaint which you have written us about.

Very truly yours,

THE EAGLE-PICKER COMPANY

Glen J. Christner
Vice President and General Manager
Insulation Division

GJC/b

... Attachment

VIA AIR MAIL

Bcc: Mr. W. D. Myers, Jr.
Mr. J. P. Harrington
Mr. P. L. Losse

RICHARD E. BEAUDRY INSURANCE ADVERTOR

43 STONEYSBROOK : SAN FRANCISCO 12, CALIFORNIA • JUN 1960 6.0344

July 8, 1960

The Eagle Picher Sales Company
1900 American Building
Cincinnati, Ohio

Attn: Insulation Division

Gentlemen:

We are representing the Hartford Insurance Company, who insured the Acton Steel Products Corporation during the years 1940 through 1943, on their California operations, which consisted of installing the insulation on the ships "President Wilson" and "President Cleveland" in the Bethlehem shipyard, Alameda, California.

We have been advised by the superintendent on that job and other officials concerned with it, that your product - mineral wool - was used in the insulation of the ventilation ducts. A claim has been presented by one of the insulating employees on that job, for a lung condition called asbestosis. Of course, this employee has worked for say of the insulating firms in the Bay Area for a considerable number of years, and this claim is based upon all of these years of employment.

We therefore are interested in obtaining literature or a letter on your stationery giving the breakdown of your mineral wool product, as well as a sample of that product. This information is needed primarily to determine if any asbestosis was used by this employee while at work on the two ships in question for the years 1940 to 1943.

We have already obtained samples and information regarding the other materials this employee could have handled on the job. Your advice on the exact materials used and their relative percentage in the mineral wool, along with a sample, will aid us greatly in the handling and defense of this claim.

Thank you for your immediate and prompt attention in this matter.

Cordially yours,

Richard E. Beaudry

REB:m



in Sales Bldg.
September 13, 1962

MR. A. L. JONES

SUBJECT: Workmen's Compensation Claims - Asbestosis

Dear Alton:

In a recent meeting of West Coast Contractors at Vancouver, a section of the meeting was devoted to discussing the increasing popularity of claims for asbestosis being made with the Health and Welfare Administration.

The J. T. Thorpe Company of Los Angeles has had two recent claims and had a hearing before the Health and Welfare Administration on two former employees. Although it is their company policy to furnish respirators to the asbestos workers, these are seldom used. In the Spokane Office of E. J. Bartells, they have had three claims. In Los Angeles, Armstrong has had one claim. Nationally, there has been one claim filed in the State of Ohio, 13 in California, 1 in Connecticut, 1 in Florida, 1 in Pennsylvania and 1 in New York. This fad for making asbestosis claims could easily lead to the classification of this trade as a hazardous occupation with a subsequent increase in State Insurance costs. In some areas of the Country, the Asbestos Workers are now required to take X-ray examinations and many of the local asbestos workers unions are claiming that they are being rated higher for personal insurance. Since the cost of medical aid and welfare has doubled in the last five years, most of these contractor associations are interested in obtaining information from any of the manufacturers that include asbestos on their experience with workmen who have been using these products over a long period of years. The Aetna Life Insurance Company in 1943 made a private study for Owens-Corning, showing that plant people had not been affected by fiberglas. The Associated Insulation Contractors of the Western States is now compiling information on this problem and I believe we have an excellent opportunity to place our case in the record as not being a contributing cause of any of these types of claims. If we can develop any statistics or data that could be useful on this subject, I will be glad to forward the information to the attention of Mr. Ken McCaffree, Executive Secretary of the Associated Insulation Contractors, for inclusion in his report.

John P. Partington

JPH/sa

cc: Mr. H. F. Hurn
Mr. P. L. Losse
Mr. F. L. Woodbridge

EXHIBIT E