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February 15, 1974

Mr. John H. Stender
Assistant Secretary of Labor for
Occupational Safety and Health
Department of Labor
Washington, D.C. 20210

Dear Mr. Stender:

It has come to my attention that chrysotile asbestos is an ingredient in many spackle and taping compounds and that asbestos levels between 3 and 13.7 fibers/cc are produced during sanding of taped dry-wall joints. Furthermore, chest X-ray studies of tapers conducted at Mount Sinai School of Medicine show a huge percentage of fibrosis among tapers. Details of the analyses and studies are given in the enclosures.

I am asking that OSHA's Target Health Hazard Program for asbestos be alerted to this newly recognized exposure, which can occur in the mixing of the taping and spackle compounds as well as in the sanding of the joint seams.

Sincerely yours,

Marcus M. Key, M.D.
Assistant Surgeon General
Director

Enclosure

cc: Messrs. William A. Duval, John Alfarone, Felsing
Drs. McMartin, Selikoff, Wagoner
Mrs. Foley
NIOSH Regional Program Directors