

FILE NAME: Eternit (ETER)

DATE: 1968 Apr 5

DOC#: ETER087

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Confidential Memo from Einar Jeul & Co. to Turner Brothers Asbestos Co. RE Asbestos Hazards

STANLEY JURE & CO. A/S

COPENHAGEN V.

TURNER BROTHERS-ASBESTOS CO. LTD.

SCHEDULE

CAP/EN

5th April, 1968

Strictly confidentially.

ASBESTOS HAZARDS

We refer to our meeting on the 3rd April in Copenhagen with Mr. J. Waddell and Mr. D.B. Lodge, during which we reported on conversations we had had with Mr. Homann Pedersen and Mr. W. Johnsen of Dansk Eternit-Fabrik.

Mr. Homann Pedersen told us that after his visit to London, following Dr. Holmes' visit to Denmark, he was under the impression that the first panic over the asbestos situation had disappeared. This he reported to the Shipbuilders Association and at the same time he sent in copies of "Codes of Practice" received from Dr. Holmes.

In the meantime, however, the situation had changed so that the more outstanding problem was not just one of health, but maybe even more one of price. The investigations which were started up when the first asbestos troubles were reported, had been put into reports issued by Elsinore Shipyard, Nakskov Shipyard, Aalborg Shipyard, and Burmeister & Wain. We understood from Mr. Homann Pedersen that these yards had filled in questionnaires, sent out to them by him. In these reports were concluded that glass cloth, glass rope lagging, glass wool, and similar mineral wool products, locally made as well as imported, would be able to solve practically speaking any insulation demand on a Danish shipyard. For instance Mr. Homann Pedersen mentioned the following fields, being one of the fields investigated:

- Inlet pipes for turbochargers
- discharge pipes for turbochargers
- fittings
- tanks
- engine rooms.

At the same time it had been found that these alternative products were essentially cheaper than asbestos. Quotations had been collected from Germany, England, France, and Denmark.

Mr. Homann Pedersen added that market investigations in neighbouring countries had disclosed that such products were being sold considerably cheaper in Denmark than in say Norway and Sweden. As an example, Mr. Homann Pedersen

TURNER BROS. & CO. LTD.

COPENHAGEN V.

TO:

MEMBER

TURNER BROTHERS ASBESTOS CO. LTD.
ROCHDALE

- 2 -

mentioned that a German glass cloth with a weight of 750 g. per sq.m. but which "looked like" an asbestos cloth of 1000 g. was considerably cheaper than the asbestos cloth.

Mr. Homann Pedersen confirmed that they had also stopped spray.

Mr. Homann Pedersen added that the asbestos problem today is an ethic problem and will be so as long as no definite statements or proofs can be referred to, saying that asbestos is not dangerous. Mr. Homann Pedersen's recommendation to the Shipbuilders Association, therefore, was and is that this question should be solved with the "least possible risk for the shipyards and the least possible damage to the asbestos manufacturers".

Mr. Homann Pedersen thought that ILO (International Labour Organization) and W.H.O. would issue "Recommendations" within about 3 years time.

Magnesia moulded insulation was included in the specifications as a usable material because, as Mr. Homann Pedersen said, "you can also have pure magnesia".

Mr. Homann Pedersen ended up by saying that he felt confident that the leading manufacturers of insulating material, and also Turners and Newalls would produce new products which could replace asbestos and which could be used for the purposes mentioned above. As examples he pointed at glass and mineral wool.

Mr. Homann Pedersen made no reference whatsoever to the Addendum of 28.2.1968 which we knew he had prepared and sent to the Shipbuilders Association. He seems to treat his reports with the utmost degree of confidence.

We then had a conversation with the director of Dansk Eternit-Fabrik Mr. W. Johnsen.

Mr. Johnsen informed us that he too had met Dr. Grut who had told him that he did not necessarily sign or agree with all the various points mentioned in Mr. Homann Pedersen's Memorandum of 7.11.1967. He found Dr. Grut extremely positive and with reasonable and moderate views.

FINAN JUEL 8-00-76

CONFIDENTIAL 9

FINAN JUEL 8-00-76

CONFIDENTIAL

- 3 -

Mr. Johnsen had heard that Mr. Homann Pedersen had sent in a new Memorandum to the Shipbuilders Association. He has succeeded in obtaining a copy and his interpretation of this Addendum of 28.2.1968 was that Mr. Homann Pedersen maintains all postulates in his first Report (including the reference to Dr. Grut's recommendation that asbestos should be avoided whenever possible).

When we mentioned to Mr. Johnsen that we had touched the subject of a possible committee being formed to deal with the asbestos problems and that we fully agreed with Dr. Grut that such a procedure should be avoided because it would tend to complicate matters, and that we were in favour of Mr. Grut's idea that without too many formalities reasonable and moderate recommendations should be issued, Mr. Johnsen fully accepted such a policy.

Mr. Johnsen has applied for a visa and if he gets it he will attend the meeting in Dresden on the 21st - 23rd April. We have already arranged contact between Dr. Holmes and Dr. Grut in Dresden, and also suggested that Dr. Holmes should offer or try to arrange a follow-up meeting in Copenhagen in order to discuss again the whole subject on the basis of Asbestos Research Council's experience. Such a meeting should take place before Dr. Grut issues any recommendations and before he has come to any final conclusion.

Mr. Johnsen would also like to meet Dr. Holmes and we have, therefore, promised him that Dr. Holmes will look for him at the Conference. Please remind Dr. Holmes of the presence of these two gentlemen, Dr. Grut and Mr. Johnsen.

Finally we understood from Mr. Johnsen that the Board of Dansk Eternit-Fabrik would probably contact - we are not quite sure whom, but we suppose it will be the Shipbuilders Association - and complain on the way in which Mr. Homann Pedersen has treated this whole matter.

We ask you kindly to treat these reports strictly confidentially.

FINAN JUEL 8-00-76

ca. 200-115