General Headquarters
September 24, 1941.

Mr. C. E. Bryant
7th floor, GH

Re: Stonefelt Insulation -
Douglas Aircraft Corp.,
Santa Monica, Calif.

Answering yours of September 18th, the following letter might be provided Mr. Winkler of Douglas Aircraft Corporation:

It is our experience that Stonefelt sometimes produces a slight rash upon workmen who are unaccustomed to handling it. However, this rash rapidly disappears and after a slight period no further physical discomfort is experienced.

Stonefelt is a form of Rock Wool, the fibres of which, when examined microscopically, reveal themselves as slender spicules of crude glass. If particles of this material are rubbed against the skin they will have an irritating effect which, however, will be a physical or mechanical, rather than a chemical, reaction. Persons having a tender skin will be inconvenienced more than others by their first contact with the material but, as stated above, most of them rapidly become accustomed to it.

Several years ago Dr. Lawrence T. Fairhall, of the Harvard School of Public Health, conducted some experiments with Rock Wool of our manufacture which he made the subject of an article in the November, 1935 issue of The Journal of Industrial Hygiene. His experiments definitely established that our Rock Wool contained nothing of a toxic or poisonous nature. We can provide you with a reprint of this article if you feel it would be useful to you.

Fiberglass is not a Johns-Manville product and for information concerning that material we believe you should communicate with those who manufacture it.

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Our experience likewise has proved that the manufacture and handling of Rock Wool (including Stonefelt) will not produce silicosis or any other lung disorder. We have had nearly forty years experience with this material or materials of substantially similar composition. These products have been subjected to exhaustive tests and medical surveys have been made at the plants where the materials have been produced and handled by hundreds of workmen over long periods of time. These tests and surveys have conclusively demonstrated that the materials are incapable of producing the lung fibrosis known as silicosis. Although Stonefelt contains a considerable percentage of silica, this ingredient is present in the form of silicate, whereas it is universally recognised that silicosis can be produced only by free silica and then only when the workmen are exposed over long periods of time to excessively high concentrations of microscopic particles thereof.

The survey of our plants referred to above was conducted by the Industrial Health Section of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company and this survey included the interpretation of X-rays of all of the employees, some of whom had been continuously exposed to these materials for more than thirty years and a majority of whom had been engaged in handling them for more than fifteen years. Over four hundred employees were involved. Not a single case of silicosis was discovered. Following the survey we were advised by Metropolitan Life Insurance Company that we could safely assume that materials of this type were innocuous from the viewpoint of lung fibroses.

VB:y

Vandiver Brown.

Cc Mr. T.J.O'Leary,Jr.,Chicago
Mr. W.J.Hennessy, S. F.
Mr. E.H.Wells,Jr., GH

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