Celite Division
Supplement E
to Bulletin #384

October 1, 1952

To:

All Salesmen

Discontinue and Destroy as a Sales Bulletin

This Supplement E to Bulletin 384 replaces the original Bulletin 384 dated January 15, 1952. However, the four page attachment [illegible] received with the original bulletin addressed "To Our Customers" entitled "Industrial Hygiene", is still effective, and should be considered as a part of the currently issued supplement.

The purpose of this bulletin is to provide up-to-date information [illegible] Johns-Manville's Celite products [illegible] dust hazard. This information should be used as the basis for answering questions raised by customers or others who may have a legitimate interest.

Under no circumstances should anyone be told that these materials are innocuous or that no claims have ever been made against us for alleged disability resulting from exposure to diatomaceous earth dust.

The full story as to the exact nature and extent of the occupational disease hazard created by excessive concentrations of [illegible] earth dust is not yet known. However, there are certain [illegible] facts developed by Company-supported research which put the answers to these may properly be passed on in answer to legitimate inquiries:

1. The material is almost a pure silica. In its natural state this silica is amorphous in character. Materials [illegible] standard Super-Cel, which are calcined, contain a small amount of crystalline silica. Some materials such as Super-Floss, which are flux calcined, contain a small amount of crystalline silica.

2. Whether the crystalline form of diatomaceous earth is more or less harmful than free crystalline silica has not as yet been definitely established. It seems, however, that the natural earth is relatively innocuous and is less of a problem than material that has been calcined.

3. A considerable sum of money will be spent in Celite in the next several years on new plants and improvements of the present plant. A substantial percentage of this expenditure will be for projects involving the control and elimination of dust and these latter will continue to have top priority in the program.

4. Johns-Manville has supported extensive research by Saranac Laboratories and the Industrial Health Section of Metropolitan Life Insurance Company and by other experts for the purpose determining the nature and extent of the occupational disease hazard.

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Supplement E
to Bulletin #384

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To:

All Salesmen

Distributors and Others Handling Celite

This Supplement E to Bulletin 384 replaces the original ... this ... dated January 15, 1952. However, the four page attachment ... received with the original bulletin addressed "To Our Customers" ... entitled "Industrial Hygiene", is still effective, and ... considered as a part of the currently issued supplement ...

The purpose of this bulletin is to provide up-to-date ... on the Johns-Manville's Celite diatomaceous earth ... dust hazards. This information should be used ... questions raised by customers or others who may have a legitimate interest.

Under no circumstances should anyone be told that these materials are innocuous or that no claims have ever been made against us for alleged disability resulting from exposure to diatomaceous earth dust.

The full story as to the exact nature and extent of the occupational disease hazard created by extensive manufacturing ... earth dust is not yet known. However, there are ... facts developed by Company-supported research during the past two decades ... these may properly be passed on in answer to ... inquiries:

1. The material is almost a pure silica. In its natural ... this silica is amorphous in character. ... ordinary diatomaceous earth, which are ... contains a small amount of crystalline silica. ... materials such as ... Super-Cel, which are flux calcined, contain a small amount of crystalline silica.

2. ... whether the crystalline form of diatomaceous earth ... more, or less, harmful than its crystalline ... not as yet been definitely established. It seems ..., however, that the natural earth is relatively innocuous ... as ... less of a problem than material that has been calcined.

3. A considerable sum of money will be spent in service in the next several years on new plants and improvements of the present plant. A substantial percentage of this expenditure will be for projects involving the control and elimination of dust and these latter will continue to have top priority in the program.

4. Johns-Manville has supported extensive research by Saranac Laboratories and the Industrial Health Section of Metropolitan Life Insurance Company and by other experts for the purpose of determining the nature and extent of the occupational disease hazard.

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5. At the request of Johns-Manville and others in the diatomaceous earth industry, the U.S. Public Health Service has undertaken a survey to establish the relationship of exposure to diatomaceous earth and employees health.

6. Investigation and experimentation is continuing and as of the present time we are not in possession of the final word on various aspects of the problem.

7. The entire medical and research program is under the direction of the Johns-Manville Medical Director, Dr. K.A. Smith.

8. At this time, we know enough to warrant our advising customers, a) to minimize so far as possible the dust created by the use of the material and, b) if the nature of the use will not permit the reduction of the dust concentration to safe levels, to require the use of protective devices.

Our further experience and experimentation may cause some of the foregoing facts to become out of date, in whole or in part, at some time in the future, and if a customer should request some written statement from the Company or more up-to-date information the request should be referred to General Headquarters along with a statement as to whether or not the information contained in this bulletin has been provided.

C.J. O'Neil

cc:
ASE CEH
WJE ABC
FLH WJN
CJON MLK
JHM JCH
DRM AW
HFC RSO
WmS BA
WJP TMJ
JLG TCP
AWK LEH
MMH
CD

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The form of letter we will use in reply to written inquiries from customers concerning the new labels:

"We have your letter of _____ regarding the labeling of bags containing _____ and the caution required in connection with handling of this composition silica. Please be advised that our Celite powders are basically diatomaceous silica which, in natural form, is amorpheous but which, if calcined, contains a substantial percentage of crystalline silica.

The full story of the exact nature and extent of the occupational disease hazard created by excessive concentrations of diatomaceous earth dust is not yet known. However, it is rather generally accepted that the inhalation of crystalline silica over extended periods of time is harmful. Johns-Manville has supported extensive research for the purpose of determining the effects of its Celite materials when used under conditions that produce dust. These investigations are continuing and as of the present time we do not know the complete answer. However, we know enough to warrant our advising customers (a) to minimize so far as possible the dust created by the use of the material and (b) if the nature of the use will not permit the reduction of the dust concentration to safe levels, to require the use of protective devices."

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