cc: ASE
WDVA
AWK
GHSF
desk
chrono
H. Ball

NOTE-1
H.M.B.

July 2, 1952

Union Oil Company of California
425 First Street
San Francisco 20, California

Att: Mr. H.R. Morrison,
Dist. Purchasing Agent

Gentlemen:

We have your letter of June 20 regarding our Hyflo Super-Cel filter aid, and the caution required in connection with handling of our Hyflo Super-Cel. Please be advised that our Celite powders are basically diatomaceous silica which, in natural form, is amorphous but which, if calcined, contains a substantial percentage of crystalline silica. Hyflo Super-Cel is a calcined product.

The full story of the exact nature and extent of the occupational disease hazard created by excessive concentration 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. Following are some specific suggestions.

1. Bag handling procedures should be modified to minimize bag breakage. Bags should be placed rather than thrown. Piles should have corner guards to prevent warehouse truck damage. If palletized, bags should be within pallet borders, not overhanging.

2. Spillage or accumulated dust should be vacuum-cleaned immediately. Sweeping is not satisfactory as it merely disperses the dust into the air, as does truck or foot traffic. Commercial, portable, industrial vacuum cleaners are available.

Published by AsbestosClaims.Law
asbestosclaims.law/library/11147/1

3. Respirators, having the U.S. Bureau of Mines approval for pneumoconiosis dust, should be worn when handling bags, particularly in confined areas. While we do not yet know what concentrations of the diatomaceous earth dust may be harmful, experience indicates that respiratory protection should be used in confined areas such as encountered in carloading.

Attached is a brochure of the newest M.S.A. respirator which carries the Bureau of Mines approval, exceeding the requirements for pneumoconiosis dusts. Similarly efficient respirators are manufactured by such reputable concerns as American Optical Company, Willson Products Inc., and Pulmosan Safety Equipment Corporation. The imperative feature is that the respirator carry the Bureau of Mines approval for pneumoconiosis-producing dusts.

Regarding your specific questions which are not answered in the foregoing, Hyflo Super-Cel is not a clay, it is a diatomaceous silica. Grades of Dicalite manufactured by Great Lakes Carbon Co., are similar materials. Our best information is that Hyflo may contain from 20 to 50 percent crystobolite.

Yours very truly,

C.J. O'Neil,
Merchandise Manager

CJON:W-

Published by AsbestosClaims.Law
asbestosclaims.law/library/11147/2