General Headquarters
January 25, 1954

A. J. Maahs

Ring-Tite Coupling
Ring-Tite Lubricant Purchase Specification

I have reviewed with interest your letters of Jan. 7 and Jan. 14 on this subject and would like to offer the following comments.

In general, when a toxic hazard associated with one of our products has been established all employees working in the fields of research, production or commercial application of the material should be warned of this hazard. This warning should include not only a statement outlining the nature of the hazard but also the recommended procedures for its prevention. The State of Illinois presently requires a warning or caution label on all products sold or used in that State which may be injurious to the health of people coming in contact with them. Many other states are following this example. Therefore, I believe that if we are to make any statement on our label we should indicate the nature of the hazard and its prevention.

I have noted that the free alkali content of this lubricant is given as 0.25%.

A review of our files indicates that most commercial soaps have no free alkali. The usual specifications for hand cleansers in large industrial establishments especially where men are exposed to oil and grease indicate that the maximum allowable alkali content should not exceed 0.05%. Therefore, it is conceivable that our product may cause some dermatitis even though we have no record of cases at present. If this lubricant is considered as a possible skin irritant and the specifications cannot be changed, then I would suggest that suitable barrier skin creams or gloves would be in order.

Kenneth W. Smith, M.D.

KWS:PK

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