April 18, 1957

A. J. Stenari

I have noted the letter from Mr. Andre Ensens in which he asked for information concerning the silicosis hazard in the manufacturing of steam cured asbestos cement products. I would suggest that the following information be sent to him.

We believe that there is no silicosis hazard in our asbestos cement operations when ordinary precautionary measures are followed. Good housekeeping is essential throughout the plant. Spilled materials on the floor should be removed so that no dust is created in the air. Whenever the atmosphere is contaminated by dust in the mixing or machine operations, local ventilation should be installed.

There are two controls which we use to confirm the fact that we have no silicosis hazard in our working areas. The first is a routine periodic industrial hygiene survey with dust counting procedures to see that any toxic dusts which might be present do not exceed the maximum allowable concentration established by the health authorities. The other is by pre-employment and periodic annual physical examinations of all personnel complete with 14 by 17 x-ray films of the chest.

With these methods of material handling, good housekeeping, dust counting, and physical examinations, I am certain that Mr. Ensens should anticipate no silicosis problems. If there is additional information, I shall be very pleased to answer any specific questions which he may pose.

You asked if I might prepare a standard statement which you could give to all customer inquiries such as this. We firmly believe that all such inquiries should be handled on an individual basis and shall be very pleased to prepare any statements in this manner in the future. It is the responsibility of the General Attorney to approve all written or oral representations to customers in the field of occupational health. Therefore, we always handle these matters under the direction of his office.

Mr. Ensens' letter is returned herewith.

Kenneth W. Smith, M.D.

KWS:FB
Enclosure
cc: H. M. Ball
D. T. Colton
R. R. Waddington