September 30, 1957

Mr. F. M. Stumpf
Vice President - Research
Columbia Acoustics and Fireproofing Company
Stanhope, New Jersey

Dear Mr. Stumpf:

Recently you wrote to H. A. Poinsinet concerning potential health hazards associated with the handling of asbestos. He asked me to reply to your letter.

It is a recognized fact that continued inhalation of asbestos fiber in sufficient quantities over a long enough period of time may cause some pulmonary changes. However, in our mines and mills where approximately two thousand people are producing in excess of 500,000 tons of asbestos annually, we have developed no new cases of asbestosis for many years.

We believe that proper material handling methods as well as local ventilation will remove any health hazard which might exist. If working conditions are such that these suggestions cannot be followed, employees should wear respirators which are approved by the U. S. Bureau of Mines for pneumoconiosis-producing dusts.

In certain manufacturing operations asbestos is mixed with other dusts. Should these additional dusts be potentially toxic such as silica, additional precautions should be taken. On the other hand if the other dust is inert such as mineral wool, the potential exposure is much less.

If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

Kenneth W. Smith, M.D.
Medical Director

bcc: H. H. Hall
H. A. Poinsinet
A. G. Bollinger

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