January 29, 1968

H. G. Donovan - Research

cc: C. B. Burnett
K. V. Lindell
N. W. Hendry
File

U. S. MINERAL PRODUCTS
VISIT JANUARY 24TH

At the sales meeting I mentioned the C.A.F.C.O. bag which has been carrying a "WARNING" "CAUTION" sign on asbestos fibre for years. I'm mailing one of these bags to each of you. It says: "CAUTION" - "This product contains asbestos. Inhalation of asbestos dust over long periods may be harmful. If employees are exposed to dust during use in application, these employees should be equipped with adequate personal devices."

Jim Verhalen (now President of U. S. Mineral Products) was most anxious to discuss our position paper. He mentioned, and I saw a draft of a press release which the "Sprayed Mineral Fibre Manufacturers Association" are preparing and will issue shortly. It will say that "any worker within 10 ft. of mixing or spraying area must wear a mask" - and they describe the mask to be used.

He said we now have very good medical advice and even Dr. Ribicoff is saying nice things about J-M these days.

It occurred to me that U. S. M. was making a product for us, under J-M label, up until Jan. 1968 - J-M JAY-SPRAY. Jim said that as far as he knew there was no "warning - caution" on the J-M bags.

While in the plant collecting the Cafco bags which I am sending you, I asked if they still had a J-M J-SPRAY bag around. To everyone's surprise here is what it says: "Caution" - "This product contains asbestos fibre - inhalation of asbestos in excessive quantities over long periods of time may be harmful. If dust is created, when this product is handled, avoid breathing the dust. If adequate ventilation control is not possible, wear respirators approved by the U. S. Bureau of Mines for Pneumoconiosis-producing dusts." Only one sample bag available - sending to C. B. Burnett.

So, it appears that we went further than U. S. M. did with their own bags.

Incidentally, Al Binger, formerly of Carey and Smith & Kanaley, now Secretary of the Sprayed Min. Fibre Mfg. Assoc., phoned me in New Haven last week and asked that I discuss the subject further with him.

It appears to be a "Hot" subject now. I shall be guided by your advices and recommendations. I am including with this letter a copy of an article which appeared in the Insulation Magazine published in England November 1967.

H. A. Boisclair

HAB/sv

H. A. Boisclair to H. G. Donovan on U.S. Mineral Products and Caution Labels on Spray Fiber Bags (1968)
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