A.F.D. ASBESTOS
March 3rd, 1972

N.W. Hendry

SAFE HANDLING OF ASBESTOS FIBRE

It has been our practice in the past, to package and ship fibre in the most economical manner. We have used 2 ply paper bags, 7-1/2 oz. jute bags and made use of the best possible freight rates available for standard railway equipment.

More recently, pressures created by the new emphasis being placed upon environmental control and health considerations, have forced us to review some of our ideas and give dust control a higher priority than cost. It is apparent to us that asbestos users in the U.S.A. and Canada, as well as in many other countries of the world where similar pressures are being exerted, are quickly becoming conditioned to the idea that dust control is obligatory and will inevitably cost something to achieve.

The conclusion is therefore, that we should not be reluctant because of cost, to investigate and experiment with novel packaging and shipping methods which will satisfy the environmental control standards since, in most cases, the customer will be prepared to pay a (reasonable) price for being provided with a ready-made solution to a difficult problem.

So far we have had some success by introducing pulpable bags for the paper industry, shrink wrap polyethylene shrouds for overseas shipments and so on. However, I would like to see more work done on this programme so that we shall be indisputable leaders in the field of safe handling of asbestos fibre. If achieved, this would, I am sure enable us to increase our share of the market.

I am listing below, one or two ideas on the type of changes which could be made.

1. The more extensive use of special railcars for domestic and plant shipments, for example :-

   a) Bulk tank cars for the asbestos cement and paper industry where the fibre is purged out in water rather than in air.

   b) Compartmentized box cars, which can be loaded and unloaded mechanically 100% and which are leased to J-M to ensure regular return.

   c) Specially constructed cars with built-in ventilation carrying the J-M name and "ASBESTOS THE SAFE WAY" or words to that effect.

/ continued

A1-1

Published by AsbestosClaims.Law
asbestosclaims.law/library/11425/1

3. The development of special packages.

a) Pure soluble in substances other than water for use in friction materials, vinyl floor tile, etc.

b) Other types of container which can be attached directly to a customer's equipment and discarded or returned when empty. (Like a caulking cartridge for example).

4. Centralized Mixing Stations for small users.

Where there are many relatively small users in an industrial area such as Chicago, set up in conjunction with an asphalt company a central premixing station where fibre would be mixed into dough consistency for sale to producers of roof coatings, caulks etc. This would restrict the number of accounts with limited resources trying to set up full dust control systems and giving the industry a bad name.

While some of the foregoing ideas may not be new, I sincerely believe that this approach should lead to increased fibre sales.

H.F. HAY

HFH/eb

AL-1

Published by AsbestosClaims.Law
asbestosclaims.law/library/11425/2