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July 8th, 1960

Mr. William J. Reeves
Engineering Department
R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Co.
Winston Salem, North Carolina

Dear Mr. Reeves

Your recent inquiry concerning our Marinite products has been forwarded to me for reply.

Since the Marinite board products consist primarily of a calcium silicate, which results from the chemical reaction of lime and natural diatomaceous earth products, there is no silicosis hazard potential in the dust created when cutting and machining Marinite [illegible]. In addition to the calcium silicate, however, our various Marinite products contain [illegible] to [illegible] asbestos fiber. It is a recognized fact that continued inhalation of asbestos fiber in sufficient quantities over a long period of time may cause some pulmonary damage.

For your reference, I have attached a copy of the Hygienic Guide for Asbestos published by the American Industrial Hygiene Association. You will note that the recommended maximum atmospheric concentration for 8 hours of daily exposure is 5 million particles per cubic foot of air. This is the standard of the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists and pertains to particles 10 microns and less in size.

We believe that proper material handling methods, good housekeeping practices, and adequate ventilation at the dust source will remove any health hazard that might exist. If engineering control of the dust is impossible, we advise that the employees use respirators approved for the pneumoconiosis producing dust.

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

Very truly yours,

bcc: M. M. Hall
R. V. Lohse (6 copies)

H. M. Jackson, Manager
Industrial Health Program

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