Johns-Manville

Internal Correspondence

WAM 1054

To: W. L. VanDerbeek - 2S

Date: Feb. 5, 1974

From: J. A. McKinney - 5W

Copies: W. R. Goodwin - 5W
F. L. Pundsack - R&D
F. J. Solon - 4N
G. W. Wright - 3W

Subject. INFORMING FOREIGN CUSTOMERS ABOUT ASBESTOS AND HEALTH

Last November copies of the booklet WHAT EVERY EMPLOYEE SHOULD KNOW ABOUT ASBESTOS were sent to 21 J-M plants for distribution to employees. There has been no adverse Union or employee reaction, and the employees apparently have taken the book quite seriously, particularly the part relating to the relationship between asbestos and smoking.

We recommend consideration be given to sending copies of the booklet to our customers, particularly our overseas customers, together with a recommendation that our customers distribute the same or a similar booklet to their employees working with asbestos.

We should also like to have another meeting with you and your people to discuss an appropriate label on asbestos shipped overseas. You will note I did not say "warning label". We should be able to devise a method of labeling which will inform users of the necessity for handling asbestos fiber properly without, at the same time, unnecessarily frightening the users or having our products classified as "hazardous".

I am convinced that at some time in the future it will be held that we had a legal obligation to inform users accurately of the things they should not do with our produc

Recently with respect to a micro quartz product we recommen a label reading somewhat as follows:

> **"Implantation of glass fiber of ___ diameter and ___ length into the plural spaces of rats resulted in tumors. There is no evidence that inhalation of the same or similar fibers is injurious to health. Nevertheless, as a precaution, do not handle this product, or products containing this product, in such a manner as to create dust. Avoid breathing any dust which is created."**

We should discuss a similar label for asbestos shipped overseas.