January 7, 1954

Arthur L. Fisk, Jr.

Thermobestos Irritation
Reid Hayden, Inc.
Charlotte, N. C.

This subject has been discussed with several people. Believing that there might be some unreacted lime remaining in this particular shipment, I asked A. B. Cummins of Research if this were possible. He felt that it is a very remote possibility. In addition, he indicated that any such unreacted lime which might be left after the manufacturing process probably would be slaked on exposure to air.

Discussion with Manville Plant people revealed no record of dermatitis caused by this product. However, it is possible that some minor skin irritations could occur and were not reported to us.

The Thermobestos itself is partly alkaline and it is entirely possible that the men in North Carolina because of excessive heat and perspiration exhibited an individual susceptibility to our product. Should any of our employees exhibit such an individual susceptibility to Thermobestos and were required to continue working with this product, I would recommend that all exposed parts of the skin be covered with a suitable barrier cream for mildly alkaline substances. However, I would not recommend this as a standard practice which might associate dermatitis with our product.

Attached is your file.

Kenneth W. Smith, M.D.

KWS:PK

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