Division Headquarters
January 18, 1954.

A. D. Bigham - Atlanta

Reid-Hayden Inc.
Charlotte, N.C.
Thermobestos Insulation

We have contacted the medical department, legal department and production regarding the irritation which Reid-Hayden's workers have experienced with the following results.

There have been no cases of skin irritation among the factory workers handling materials in the Thermobestos operation. There have been no other field reports of similar conditions. There is no possibility that this particular shipment contained more free lime than another shipment. Actually the amount of free lime in Thermobestos is very small, and in the opinion of our medical department not sufficient to cause any skin irritation. There is always the chance that the particular men in question have an allergy to alkaline substances and, of course, Thermobestos is partially alkaline.

The legal department has suggested that we answer Reid-Hayden along the following lines.

"Subject: Thermobestos Insulation

Gentlemen:

Your letter of November 30th and the enclosed memorandum from Mr. J. H. Rhodes was forwarded to our Medical Department in New York for consideration.

We have now been advised by our Medical Department that examination of the records of the people in our Manville Plant who are engaged in the manufacture and handling of Thermobestos reveals no instance of dermatitis caused by this product.

As you are undoubtedly aware, there is practically no material known that some few individuals are not allergic to. Possibly the people in North Carolina who handle this material have an unusual allergy to the material. Thermobestos itself is partially alkaline and should cause no trouble except where an unusual abnormal allergic situation exists."

R. B. English

cc: C. A. deVyver
M. W. Burleson
A. L. Fish, Jr.
Dr. K. W. Smith

Published by AsbestosClaims.Law
asbestosclaims.law/library/11603/1