copy

Division Headquarters
July 29, 1958

D.L. Hinmon

MARINITE DUST

The matter of a caution label on Marinite has been discussed with Dr. Smith and Mr. Ball. Our discussion covered all board products, not just Marinite.

As Mr. Ball indicated in his letter of July 1, 1958 to T.H. Eaton, the important thing for us to do is provide the employee who is sawing or sanding Marinite - or any board product for that matter - with suitable information so that proper precautions can be taken.

How do we disseminate this information? A label could be used. However, because sheets are sometimes faced with other materials after they leave our plant the label would be covered and not seen by the person doing the fabricating. Where sheets are not faced or painted, many labels would have to be used on both faces to make certain that all persons who cut, sanded and drilled the pieces were suitably warned.

We have many competitors in the board products field. A caution label on our products - and none on theirs would make our selling efforts most difficult. Until the entire industry takes such action, we should consider other means of communicating with the users of our materials.

Mr. Ball's letter of July 1 also indicates that placing a statement in literature does not carry to the employee the information he should have. On most sales promotion pieces and brochures this would be the case. In the case of board products, we have a different type of literature - namely, an instruction book covering cutting, drilling and machining Transite and Ebony products. The purpose of this instruction book is to reach the shop foreman and the man doing the actual work to instruct them on the proper method of handling our materials. This has been in use for several years. It is now being revised to include data on all our other board products. The old instructions carried this note on dry cutting - "In dry cutting there must be available the proper equipment to remove dust"

Published by AsbestosClaims.Law
asbestosclaims.law/library/11640/1

When the instruction book is reissued, this statement will be expanded to cover all our board products and will read as follows:

"During cutting, machining, drilling, and sanding operations adequate precautions must be taken to eliminate air contamination by dust resulting from these operations."

In my opinion, the action we have already taken is the most direct means available to warn the person handling our material of the potential danger which he may face if he continues to work in a very dusty atmosphere and breathes the dust. I believe that since our division has already taken some cognizance of this danger through the publication of an instruction of the need to remove dust plus the fact that we are enlarging on this statement in our new literature, represents all of the action which we need to take at this time.

I recommend that Building Products Division be advised of the steps which we have already taken. Since we have taken what I think to be suitable steps on the matter of cautioning the users of our material about dust, I don't believe that any proposal needs to be submitted to the Senior Officers. The only other division involved is Building Products and once they know of our problem they can take similar steps if they feel it is necessary.

W.G. Hoffer

cc: J.B. Jobe
file

6 Aug '58 - Advised that this is only thing we can do from a competitive angle & isn't a good legal one. - but a good business one.
JWB