NOTED
HME

February 20, 1952

Dr. A. J. Lanza, Chairman
Institute of Industrial Medicine
New York University - Bellevue Medical Center
477 First Avenue
New York 16, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Lanza:

Re: Labeling of Asbestos Fibre

As you are aware, the Industrial Commission of Illinois has promulgated rules as to the labeling of substances harmful to the health and safety of employees. This is the same law Vandiver Brown wrote you about on October 1, 1951 in connection with diatomaceous earth. "Dust" is specifically referred to and in our opinion asbestos fibre comes within the purview of the regulations.

The law requires that the label contain a signal word. This word is intended to draw attention to the presence of the hazard and to indicate the severity of it. The signal words are in order of diminishing severity of hazard: (1) "DANGER"; (2) "WARNING"; (3) "CAUTION". In naming the product one must avoid using a non-descriptive code designation or trade name and should give notice of exactly what hazards are present in connection with the customary or reasonably anticipated handling or use of the product.

It is our intention to label our bags containing asbestos fibre, using the following:

"CAUTION - ASBESTOS FIBRE"

"Inhalation of asbestos fibre over long periods may be harmful. The material should be so used as not to create dust or, if this is not possible, employees should be equipped with adequate protective devices."

We would greatly appreciate your comments concerning the proposed label and any suggestions you may have for improving the same from the standpoint of accuracy or otherwise.

Very truly yours,

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Arthur L. Fisk, Jr.
Legal Department

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