September 25, 1951

Rock Wool - dust hazard

Mr. C. B. Martin,
Freezer Division,
General Electric Company,
Erie, Penna.

Dear Mr. Martin:

It has been brought to my attention that you have expressed concern over the possibility that dust from our mineral wool refrigerator cabinet insulation (#302 Spintex) might represent a dust hazard. I am glad to be able to report to you that this is definitely NOT the case.

Mineral wool contains silica but in the form of a silicate. It contains no free silica, which is an important consideration since it is only free silica which can produce silicosis.

A survey was conducted some years ago by the Industrial Health Section of Metropolitan Life Insurance Company at one of our plants where mineral wool has been manufactured for nearly forty years. This survey was most thorough and included an examination of the X-rays of nearly 400 employees, the great majority of whom had been engaged in manufacturing and handling mineral wool for more than ten years and a large number for more than twenty-five years. Not a single case of silicosis or even of abnormal lung fibrosis was discovered as a result of the examinations and we were advised that we might safely consider mineral wool dust was "innocuous from the viewpoint of lung fibroses".

If there is anything further you require in this connection, please advise.

Sincerely,

Vandiver Brown,
Secretary

2 cc enclsd.

bld cc: E.D.Cox, Div.HQ
F.E.Dreger, Erie,Pa.
S.A.Tompkins - Pitts.Pa.Office
C.A.deVyver, Div.HQ

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September 25, 1951

Rock Wool - dust hazard

Mr. C. B. Martin,
Freezer Division,
General Electric Company,
Erie, Penna.

Dear Mr. Martin:

It has been brought to my attention that you have expressed concern over the possibility that dust from our mineral wool refrigerator cabinet insulation (#902 Spintex) might represent a dust hazard. I am glad to be able to report to you that this is definitely NOT the case.

Mineral wool contains silica but in the form of a silicate. It contains no free silica, which is an important consideration since it is only free silica which can produce silicosis.

A survey was conducted some years ago by the Industrial Health Section of Metropolitan Life Insurance Company at one of our plants where mineral wool has been manufactured for nearly forty years. This survey was most thorough and included an examination of the X-rays of nearly 400 employees, the great majority of whom had been engaged in manufacturing and handling mineral wool for more than ten years and a large number for more than twenty-five years. Not a single case of silicosis or even of abnormal lung fibrosis was discovered as a result of these examinations and we were advised that we might safely [illegible] mineral wool dust was innocuous from the viewpoint of [illegible].

If there is anything further you require in this connection, please advise.

Sincerely,

Vandiver Brown,
Secretary

2 cc encls'd.

bld cc: E.D.Cox, Div.HQ
F.E.Dreger, Erie,Pa.
S.A.Tompkins - Pitts.Pa.Office
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