Johns-Manville

# Internal Correspondence

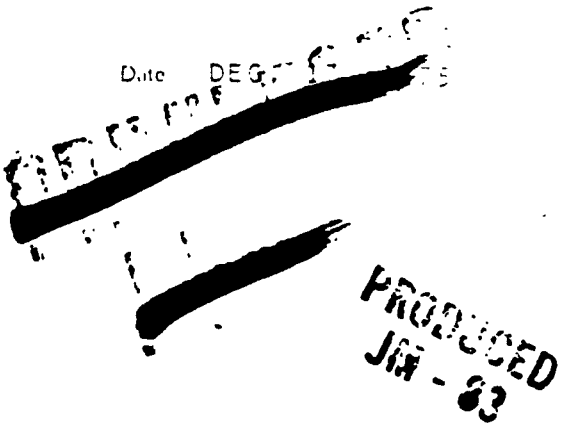
To J. T. VANDERVEEN - 3W

Date DEC [illegible]

From W. B. REITZE - 4N

Copies: P. KOTIN, MD; G. READ

Subject THERMO 12 - BRAZIL




I CANNOT STRESS TOO STRONGLY THE POSITION THAT WE DISCUSSED ON THE TELEPHONE RECENTLY REGARDING THERMOBESTOS PRODUCTION IN BRAZIL.

AS I AM SURE YOU ARE FAMILIAR, THE PRODUCTION OF THERMOBESTOS IN THE U.S. IS RESPONSIBLE FOR MANY MILLIONS OF DOLLARS WORTH OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION LIABILITY AS WELL AS MANY MORE MILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN CIVIL LAW SUITS AGAINST THE CORPORATION. THESE SUITS HAVE ARISEN FROM BOTH IN-PLANT CONDITIONS AND THE DISEASE ARISING IN OUR EMPLOYEES, AS WELL AS THE DISEASE WHICH HAS ARISEN IN THE VARIOUS TRADE UNIONS THAT USED THIS MATERIAL ON CONSTRUCTION SITES.

WHILE THE BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT AT THIS TIME HAS NO OSHA EQUIVALENT AND PERHAPS THE LAWS IN THAT COUNTRY ARE NOT QUITE AS STRICT AS THEY ARE IN OTHER PLACES IN THE WORLD, I DO NOT THINK THAT THIS LACK OF REGULATORY ACTIVITY WILL PERSIST TOO LONG IN ANY COUNTRY IN THE WORLD. WITHIN A VERY FEW YEARS WE WILL BE FORCED TO COMPLY WITH REGULATIONS SIMILAR TO THOSE EXISTING IN THE U.S.

FROM A MORAL POINT OF VIEW, I DO NOT SEE HOW WE CAN CONTINUE TO INFLICT DAMAGE FROM ASBESTOS PRODUCTS ON OTHER PEOPLES IN THE WORLD AFTER THE KNOWLEDGE WE HAVE GAINED IN OUR OWN STATE-SIDE EXPERIENCE.

TO SUM THIS ALL UP, I HEARTILY SUPPORT YOUR PROPOSALS TO REPLACE THERMOBESTOS MANUFACTURING WITH THERMO 12. IN FACT, I WOULD EVEN GO SO FAR AS TO SAY THAT IF WE DO NOT PROCEED WITH THE ELIMINATION OF THERMOBESTOS IN BRAZIL, WE WOULD BE BOTH DERELICT AND SHORT-SIGHTED.

W. B. REITZE

Johns-Manville

# Internal Correspondence

To W. B. Reitze - 4N

Date Dec. 15, 1975

From J. T. Vanderveen - 3W

Copies G. Read

Subject THERMO-12, BRAZIL

Our Telecon, 12/14/75

If possible, I would appreciate from your office a brief, informal memorandum regarding J-M's position on the issue of Thermobestos versus the asbestos free Thermo-12 product. As I explained to you in our telephone conversation cited above, the International Division is currently preparing an A/R relative to a T-12 project in Brazil to replace the current Thermobestos operation.

For a variety of reasons we believe this project should be classified in the area of "environmental control." We would intend to include a statement to the effect that while there is currently no Brazilian OSHA equivalent nor is there likely to be any pressure in Brazil for the foreseeable future to convert to the asbestos free product, good corporate citizenship and the future possibility of adverse local reaction will dictate conversion (or termination of calcium silicate manufacturing activities). Obviously, the longer we delay the matter, the greater becomes the possibility of adverse local reaction.

We would not use your memorandum as part of our A/R. We would merely refer to environmental aspects of the matter citing overall corporate policy in such situations.