Johns-Manville

To: F.J. Solon, Jr. Denver GHQ Date: 19 March 1975 (684)

From: W.R. Janes J-M London
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D. POUTIATINE
MAR 25 1975
A. F. D.

Subject: ASBESTOS INFORMATION COMMITTEE

Your memo of 25 February has reference.

At an A.I.C. meeting yesterday I obtained the attached summary of A.I.C. activities from September 1974 to March 1975. Amongst the points discussed was the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974.

In connection with the latter and further to my memo of 11 February 1975 (660) my attention has been drawn to a memo under signature C.M. Hubbs also in this connection.

Whilst the internal memos of Turners and Cape were not indicated as being confidential, I am surprised to note that in letters to Drew Chemicals U.K. Ltd and Interseals Ltd, reference is made to the content of these memos - hardly ethical I feel, particularly as this could possibly jeopardise my access to any such further memos.

ASBESTOS-CONTAINING MATERIALS

The J-M warning as proposed to order acknowledgements and literature was generally in agreement with that of other A.I.C. members. I understand that Turners are having a hinged sticker printed in red, which is being attached to all orders, acknowledgements, quotations etc within the U.K. as follows:-

U.K. Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974

WARNING

Many asbestos based materials are subject to the requirements of the Asbestos Regulations 1969. Certain operations with such materials require precautions to be taken to ensure that they will be safe and without risks to health when properly used.

The publications of the Asbestosis Research Council which describe these precautions can be obtained direct from the Environmental Control Committee of the Council, 114 Park Street, London, W1Y 4AB or from (supplying company, name and address).

This label will also be attached to the billings etc for asbestos fibre as such. It will be noted that their wording differs from that of J-M.

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Referring now to the question of the physical labelling of products. As this is not yet an actual requirement of the Act but only a very strong future possibility, the A.I.C. are approaching the Health and Safety Commission and Factory Inspectorate for acceptance of a standard type warning label or mark as the modified A (as attached), plus health warning wording. This is felt preferable to the one said to have been proposed by the Council of Europe, for toxic materials, i.e. death's head or skull and crossbones.

In the circumstances, therefore, I would recommend that physical labelling of products to the U.K. should not take place until such time as the matter has been clarified and accepted. The warnings to billings and literature etc should suffice for the while.

Further on the subject of the wording to the actual label, it has been intimated here that OSHA may possibly require, in the near future, the wording as:-

CAUTION
Contains asbestos fibres.
Avoid creating dust.
Breathing asbestos dust may
cause serious bodily harm.

To be altered slightly although to what extent is not known.

Would D. Poutiatine please advise me what action Canadian Johns-Manville are taking with regard to warning information on asbestos fibre deliveries into the U.K.

Incidentally, the official J-M company name in the U.K. is Johns-Manville (Great Britain) Limited - which can be abbreviated to Johns-Manville (G.B.) Ltd and not as shown to the warning notice - Johns-Manville Ltd.

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