BC: File

J. L. Myers VI, E, 7

Caldria ASBESTOS

UNION CARBIDE

THE DISCOVERY COMPANY

UNION CARBIDE CORPORATION • MINING & METALS DIVISION • P.O. BOX 579 • NIAGARA FALLS, N. Y. 14302 • TEL: 716-278-3376

July 18, 1975

PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT UC-45

Mr. Peter Zschunke
Grace GmbH
6520 Worms
Rh. Postfach 449
In der Hollerhecke
Germany

Dear Peter:

Bob Byrne has asked me to respond to your letter of June 24, 1975 on the subject of the use of asbestos in filter equipment and packaging material for pharmaceuticals and food. This has been an emotional and controversial subject in the United States ever since Nicholson, Maggiore, and Selikoff published their data and publicly expressed their concern.

Basically two different problems have been examined by the FDA:

1. The use of asbestos filters for the processing of injection drugs, foods, and beverages.

2. The use of asbestos contaminated talc in foods.

After much debate and testimony, the FDA decided to put severe restrictions on filters and packaging for injection drugs only. No restrictions have been placed at this time on talc contaminated with asbestos in foods or on the use of asbestos filters for processing foods and beverages. Extensive research on the effects of injected asbestos are planned to determine if such restrictions are necessary.

The essentials of these decisions are summarized in the attachment, "Consumer Health." A copy of the complete regulations from the Federal Register is also provided if you want more details. You may also be interested in an excellent summary of the facts on the problem that was submitted to the FDA by the Asbestos Information Association. The AIA concluded that there was no evidence of any danger in the use of asbestos filters for injection drugs but did not object to the requirement of an after-filter as an extra precaution.

I hope this gives you the information you need for the customer. If you have any further questions, please let us know.

Very truly yours,

Harry

H. B. Rhodes
Technology Manager

HBR:pcr
Enclosures

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Added Notes:

1. A copy of the J. L. Myers paper which you requested is also enclosed.

2. Mine Safety Appliances tells us that they have offices in most of the principal cities in Europe. We are enclosing a list of addresses.

Harry

H. B. Rhodes

HBR:pcr
Enclosures

cc: R. E. Byrne, Jr.
J. L. Myers
A. Dambach, W. R. Grace, Lausanne, Switzerland

A 10673

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