

13 June, 1967

1415 TH/MLF

Mr. Frank Dexter
Union Carbide Corporation
Chemicals & Plastics Division
270, Park Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10017

Re: ASBESTOS TOXICOLOGY

Dear Frank:

I assume that you are aware of the occasional reports concerning possible toxicity and carcinogenic properties of asbestos. Dr. Dernehl of Union Carbide Medical Department has followed this area very closely and has maintained a very close check on the working conditions at the King City plant.

Perhaps the most publicity and "interest" in this problem has been in England. There, only two ports will handle normally bagged asbestos, at the other ports the Union of Dock Workers have refused to handle the shipments of asbestos.

We have been permitted to bring in several shipments with not very favorable results. The last shipment, because of rather poor handling and packing, was in bad shape with many broken bags and much free asbestos. Copies of reports on these shipments have undoubtedly already dome to your attention.

Mr. Sayers of the asbestos group in UCL has written a report summarizing the findings and feelings concerning asbestos in the U.K. I assume that you have also seen a copy of this report. I am enclosing with this letter, a copy of the comments Dr. Dernehl made in response to this report from England.

My main purpose in writing this to you is to confirm that at the July asbestos meeting in Oxford we will implement the suggestion made by Mr. Sayers and agreed to by Dr. Dernehl that Union Carbide join in the cooperative standard sample comparisons to the extent of arranging for standard samples to be forwarded to Niagara Falls for trace element analysis. In joining the program to this extent we will be able to keep in close contact with the progress of this study and will also be aware of any adverse findings which may develop.

I assume that this is satisfactory to you. We will, of course, keep you directly advised of any information that may develop over here. If these findings or any others of which we may not be aware cause any change in marketing plans or programs for asbestos, we assume you will immediately advise us.

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