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TO (NAME) JL Rawlings DATE 6/19/72

LOCATION NY-38 FROM John L. Myers/M&M Division

SUBJECT "Calidria" Asbestos LOCATION Box 579, Niagara Falls, NY 14302

Jim — Attached is a copy of a German "Degussa letter" and a translation made here. I got the letter from WR Grace in Bad Homburg.

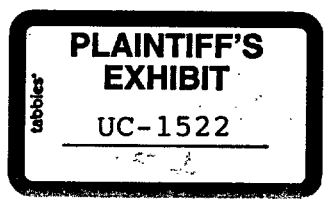
John

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ORIGINAL

JUN 20 1972





DEGUSSA LETTER TO GERMAN CUSTOMERS
11/29/71

Translation By J. Goddard
6/14/72

Asbestos Thickener A-14 and A-28
Suspension of Sales on December 31, 1971

Gentlemen:

You have belonged for some time among our loyal clients for asbestos thickeners and have certainly learned to appreciate the advantages of this material.

In spite of the technical successes, we have decided to suspend the sales of the asbestos thickener with the action of December 31, 1971.

The principal reasons for this action are health considerations in view of possible secondary effects. It was recognized earlier that the inhalation of greater amounts of asbestos fibers can lead to formation of asbestosis, which however may be avoided by observing the prescribed protective measures. We have only to show recent statistical work which, even with the consideration of the safety rules, does not exclude (the possibility) that lung and peritoneum cancer can be produced.

We therefore consider it our duty to withdraw the asbestos fiber products from the market, although according to our information not all offerers (of this product) share our doubts (or, scruples).

To our great regrets, therefore, we must confront you with the problem of changing from the use of recipes based on A-14 and A-28. As alternate products we can recommend to you our Aerosil types, although they don't possess all the technical properties to substitute completely for A-14 and A-28 in every application. The men of our outside services and our applications technology of course are available to you at any time in order to advise you with regard to the recipe change-over.

Should you, in spite of our doubts, at present not be able to give up on the insertion of A-14 and A-28, we are prepared to fill all orders up to December 31, 1971 at your risk.

We hope that you will understand our action, and continue (as our customer).

With friendly greetings,

Degussa (Sauerborn/Kress)

Attachment: Summary of the Decision

Frankfurt November 29, 1971

SUMMARY OF THE TOXICOLOGICAL LITERATURE ON ASBESTOS FIBER PRODUCTS

Before the market introduction of asbestos thickeners, in 1968 a technological decision was made. Up to this time, it was known, as described in pamphlet 30/31 of the occupational illness regulation, that asbestos fibers can lead with suitably strong exposure to progressive lung fibrosis (asbestosis), that lung cancer was observed relatively frequently in combination with asbestos and that pleuraen-othelioma (cancer of the lungs) could occur. If protective measures were used, as conveyed in pamphlet ZH 1/138, the danger appeared to be confined.

Yet after 1968 information was condensed which led to the following new judgment:

Asbestos dust endangers not only the producer of asbestos products, where it is doubted that the as yet ficticious TLV (Threshold Limit Value) is regarded as reliable, but also can endanger the fabricator of asbestos products and even the population which lives in the neighborhood of the asbestos manufacturers and fabricators.

The new statistical investigations of Dr. Selikoff, New York, reported increased proportions of cases of mesothelioma in people who were exposed only a short time to relatively small amounts of asbestos fibers. Thus the suspicion was consolidated that asbestos fibers present not only a danger to the working place but also for the environment.

Action
Fachverband Wirtschaftsverband für Bestrahlung

Ihre Zeichen	Ihre Nachricht vom	Unser Zeichen	Telef.-Durchwahl	Datum
		PT-MV/Krs-us	218-2045	29. Nov. 1971

Asbestverdickungsmittel A 14 und A 23
Einstellung des Vertriebs zum 31. 12. 1971

4. Wied.
Erl.

Sehr geehrte Herren!

Sie gehören seit einiger Zeit zu unseren treuen Kunden für Asbestverdickungsmittel und haben sicherlich die Vorzüge dieses Materials schätzen gelernt.

Trotz der technischen Erfolge haben wir uns entschlossen, den Vertrieb von Asbestverdickungsmitteln mit Wirkung von 31. 12. 1971 einzustellen.

Der Hauptgrund für diese Maßnahme sind unsere gesundheitlichen Bedenken im Hinblick auf mögliche Nebenwirkungen. Es war schon früher bekannt, daß das Einatmen von größeren Mengen Asbestfasern zur Entstehung von Asbestose führen kann, die sich jedoch durch Einhaltung der vorgeschriebenen Schutzmaßnahmen vermeiden ließ. Wie erst neuere statistische Arbeiten ergeben haben, ist nicht auszuschließen, daß auch bei Beachtung der Sicherheitsvorschriften Lungen- und Bauchfellkrebs verursacht werden kann.

Wir halten es deshalb für unsere Pflicht, die Asbestfaserprodukte vom Markt zurückzuziehen, obwohl nach unserer Kenntnis nicht alle Anbieter unsere Bedenken teile .

Zu unserem großen Bedauern müssen wir Sie daher mit dem Problem konfrontieren, Ihre unter Verwendung von A 14 und A 23 ausgearbeiteten Rezepturen umzugestalten. Als Austauschprodukte können wir Ihnen unsere AEROSIL-Typen

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Datum 29. 11. 1971
PT-MV/Kress

empfehlen, obwohl sie nicht alle technischen Eigenschaften besitzen, um A 14 und A 28 in jedem Anwendungsfal voll zu ersetzen. Die Herren unseres Außendienstes und unserer Anwendungstechnik stehen Ihnen selbstverständlich jederzeit zur Verfügung, um Sie bei der Rezepturumstellung zu beraten.

Sollten Sie trotz unserer Bedenken gegenwärtig auf den Einsatz von A 14 und A 28 nicht verzichten können, so sind wir bereit, alle bis zum 31. 12. 1971 eingehenden Aufträge auf Ihr Risiko zu erfüllen.

Wir hoffen, daß Sie unseren Schritt verstehen werden, und verbleiben

mit freundlichen Grüßen

Anlage:
Zusammenfassung Gutachten

D E G U S S A

ppa. Sauerbrei i. V. Kress

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TOX-D .He-Kr:/us Frankfurt, 29. Nov. 1971

Zusammenfassung der toxikologischen Literatur über Asbestfaserprodukte

Vor der Markteinführung der Asbestverdickungs ittel wurde 1968 ein toxikologisches Gutachten erstellt. Zu diesem Zeitpunkt war bekannt, wie in dem Merkblatt 30/31 der Berufskrankheiten-Verordnung beschrieben, daß Asbestfasern bei entsprechend starker Exposition zu einer fortschreitenden Lungenfibrose (Asbestose) führen können, daß Lungenkrebs in Verbindung mit Asbestose relativ häufig beobachtet wurde und Pleuraendotheliome (Krebs des Lungenfells) vorkommen können. Wenn Schutzmaßnahmen angewendet wurden, wie in dem Merkblatt ZH 1/136 gefordert, schien die Gefahr gebannt.

Erst nach 1968 verdichteten sich die Informationen, die zu folgender neuer Beurteilung führten:

Asbeststaub gefährdet nicht nur den Hersteller von Asbestprodukten, wobei angezweifelt wird, daß der bisher angenommene TLV (Threshold limit value) als zuverlässig anzunehmen ist, sondern kann auch die Verarbeiter von Asbestprodukten und sogar die Bevölkerung, die in der Nähe von asbestbe- und-verarbeitenden Betrieben wohnt, gefährden.

Die neueren statistischen Untersuchungen von Dr. Selikoff, New York, berichten in verstärktem Maße von Fällen von Mesotheliomen bei Personen, die nur kurzzeitig einer relativ geringen Menge Asbestfasern ausgesetzt waren. So verdichtete sich der Verdacht, daß Asbestfasern nicht nur eine Gefahr am Arbeitsplatz sondern auch für die Umwelt darstellen.

J.W. Rawlings

TRANSLATION

Obtained from P. Messina – W.R. Grace & Co.

R.L.R. 1/27/72

Letter Degussa to Customers

Asbestos Thickening Agents A 14 and A 28
Termination of Distribution by December 31, 1971

Dear Sirs,

For quite some time you belong to our circle of customers buying asbestos thickening agents and you certainly appreciate the advantages of these products.

In spite of the technical success we have decided to terminate the sale of asbestos thickening agents by December 31, 1971.

The main reason for our decision is our doubt regarding possible secondary health hazards. It was known before that inhaling asbestos fibres may cause asbestosis. This could be prevented by observing the prescribed precautions. Recent statistics, however, have shown that it is not impossible to develop lung-cancer despite complying to the safety rules.

Therefore, we feel obliged to withdraw our asbestos fibre products from the market, although not all offerers share our doubts.

We very much regret to have to confront you with the problem of changing those formulations which included A 14 and A 28. As a substitute we recommend our Aerosil types, although these do not possess all properties which are necessary to fully replace A 14 and A 28 for all applications.

Our sales force and technical service group will advise and assist you in reworking your formulations.

In case you cannot do without A 14 and A 28 despite of our objections, we are prepared to handle all orders arriving till December 31, 1971 on your own risk.

We hope that you will understand our decision.

Sincerely yours,

D E G U S S A

TRANSLATION

(Article from "defazet" January 1972)

[DEUTSCHE FARBEZEITUNG]

Obituary on An Irreplaceable Product

Another raw material producer became the victim of the hysteria on health hazards and this time it is a material which is nearly irreplaceable due to its exceptional properties: a special upgraded asbestos. The fibrous particles of this material are of a length up to 10 micron with an exceptionally small diameter of only 0.02 to 0.03 micron. Degussa, who have developed this material offer it as a thickening age under the name of A-28 and A-14 (longer and stronger fibre tufts). Many producers utilized the advantageous properties, f.i. in sealing compounds, artificial stone coatings, Plastisols, epoxy systems and many other applications. Beside the extraordinary thickening effect, this material has also other advantages such as high chemical resistance, no moisture pick-up, insolubility in all systems, defined particle size, easy incorporation, all-round utilization independent of polarity of the system and stability of standardized thickening ranges.

This material is said to develop cancer.

Certainly, it cannot be excluded with certainty that somebody working a long time only with this material may get a cancer one day, but an indisputable proof that this illness can be traced back to the influence of a special asbestos product is nearly impossible. In case the person is a smoker, the proof is absolutely impossi Cancer may also be developed by street dust or any other pollution, as these mater contain also particles of different shape and size the effect of which we do not k exactly.

You can see that this is only fantasy which is not understandable in this scientif age.

The question for a substitute of A-28 and A-14 cannot be answered. Similar effects will be tried by reworking the formulations.

Which will be the next product to disappear from the raw material market?

At present one is eagerly digging in dust-heaps.

HLM/km
January 12, 1972