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UC-4017

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MAR 28 1966
CHEMICALS & METALS DIV.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Messrs. T. Dougherty
R. A. Miller
R. W. Stobaeus
B. K. Barton
T. R. van Fleet
N. J. Setter
R. T. Larkin

DATE: March 22, 1966

CC: L. S. O'Rourke
T. J. Hall
H. F. Reichard/R. G. Woolery
J. A. Riddle
J. Derbecker
P. R. Cheston
T. F. Frangos

SUBJECT: Asbestos - Toxicology

Gentlemen:

Early in March the "New York Times" and the "Herald Tribune", reporting the establishment of a new environmental health laboratory at Mt. Sinai Hospital (New York City), revived some publicity (copy attached) in regard to Asbestos dust as a health hazard. We understand that a few newspapers in other cities picked it up.

"Out of context" reporting leads to erroneous conclusions, and this is no exception. Nevertheless, we should reckon that such a commentary will recur, and all of us should use the tool we now have at our disposal to make certain our customers are acquainted with the facts:

1. You have copies of Dr. Dernehl's "Asbestos Toxicology Report." Additional copies are enclosed. Use these, and call particular attention to Dr. Dernehl's statements in regard to "Threshold Limit Value" for asbestos. Control of asbestos dust exposure is necessary, as is control of exposure to any of a variety of dusty operations.

2. Union Carbide pellets offer a clear-cut means of handling asbestos under exceptionally low dust conditions.

3. No work yet conducted or published presents, nor professes to present, incontrovertible proof of a relationship between cancer and asbestos. Some publications have referred to the association of deleterious organic compounds, among them jute oils from jute sacking material, and 3,4 benzo(a) pyrene. We do not use jute bags. Further, we are

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