Raybestos Manhattan

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SUBSTITUTES FOR ASBESTOS - IS THERE A RISK TO HEALTH

Raybestos-Manhattan needs strong, thermally stable and durable fibers to reinforce its composite products used in friction materials. Asbestos performs these functions extremely well and will continue to be used where it can be handled safely and where no viable alternative is commercially available. However, other naturally occurring and man-made mineral fibers are available, some of which have a potential for replacing asbestos. Raybestos-Manhattan is working toward the substitution of these fibers for asbestos in those of our products where technical and economic feasibility can be proven.

It is a known fact that certain diseases have been related to exposure to asbestos, and it is therefore necessary to consider whether the fibrous materials which may be used instead of it, have been, or are likely to be, associated with similar adverse health hazards.

The health problems associated with exposure to asbestos are these:

- A disease called asbestosis - a scarring of the lung tissue, which when severe, makes it difficult to breathe properly.

- Persons who smoke cigarettes and inhale asbestos dust are at a greater risk of developing asbestosis and lung cancer. Studies show that asbestos exposure greatly increases the lung cancer risk for cigarette smokers.

- A form of cancer called malignant mesothelioma - a tumor which affects the membrane which lines the inside of the chest wall, the lung, the inside of the abdomen and the gut. Some authors believe that this form of cancer is more likely to be associated with crocidolite asbestos, less likely with amosite and less likely with chrysotile. A form of asbestos known as anthophyllite has never been shown to cause mesothelioma.

It is widely believed and stated in the medical literature that asbestos causes cancer because the fiber bundles of which it is composed are capable, when milled or used in industrial processes, of splitting longitudinally into fibrils "with exceptionally small diameters that retain substantial lengths." It has been shown that the ability of a fiber to penetrate the lung depends critically upon its diameter and its falling speed in air. The differing mesothelioma risk between amphibole varieties of asbestos and chrysotile appears to be due to the physical properties of these fiber varieties. Chrysotile asbestos, because it cannot penetrate to the depths of the lung as readily as the needle-like amphibole crocidolite, is considered to be less likely to cause this tumor than crocidolite.

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PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT

UC-4220

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