PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT

UC-5464

cc: #147-2 C. M. Howard
#186 P. Kipp

#131 A. J. Katt

#147-2 R. P. Entz

HAZARDOUS LABELLING - JOINT COMPOUNDS

December 14, 1970

We are presently faced with a perplexing situation which deals with possible liability that we might incur by not labelling our joint compound products as hazardous because of the asbestos fiber content.

[redacted]

Research has run tests which indicate that we are presently inside the limits published by the Federal Government; however, the Attorneys and Mr. Kipp feel this does not provide us with adequate protection because the industry and Government are considering lowering the amount of fiber permissible. The Medical profession does not agree as to the seriousness with respect to the use of fibers, although there is a clear cut implication that cancer can result as a result of inhalation.

Product Management feels that we would be at a decided disadvantage if we were to label our products, whereas none of our competition at this time is so doing.

One of the leaders in setting standards on the use of asbestos is Johns Manville because they have probably the greatest potential liability and considerably more at stake with respect to future sales of their asbestos. We have expressed the opinion that we believe leadership in hazardous labelling should be considered an industry problem and if our competitors label their products, we do not believe we would then be at any disadvantage.

With approximately 84 producers of joint compound in this country and no specific association to which these people belong, we have a problem in attempting to come up with a unified solution. We are recommending that this whole matter be discussed in detail at the Gypsum Association level because in Georgia Pacific and National Gypsum we have two of our largest competitors.

UC 036 2053

We would like your concurrence that this be made a subject for the Gypsum Association and also your agreement that we approach this as an industry problem and not take unilateral action.

RPE:kjs

GP036 2054