



January 20, 2012

Dear Customer:

As announced in October, The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) classified occupational exposures to oxidized bitumens and their emissions during roofing as “probably carcinogenic to humans” (also known as a “Group 2A Classification”). On November 28, 2011, IARC published an overview of its classification in the medical journal *Lancet Oncology*. What this means is that IARC believes there is some, although limited, evidence of cancer hazard associated with roofing products containing oxidized asphalt that require heat application. This includes the following Built-Up Roofing Asphalt products: Type 1, 2, 3, 4 TruLo[®], TruLo Max[®] and PermaMop[®] asphalt.

U.S. law requires that any material that is classified by IARC as a probable carcinogen and used in the workplace must be labeled as a carcinogen. As a result, Owens Corning Roofing & Asphalt (OC or R&A) will be required to place a new warning label on these products and update certain Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS).

Based on more than 20 years of research, we continue to believe that our roofing products are safe when recommended work practices are followed.

According to the Asphalt Institute (AI), “while it is IARC’s task to identify cancer hazards, even when the risks are very low, these findings are not in line with industry conclusions based on its review of the extensive database of health studies including human and animal.” And, the Asphalt Roofing Manufacturers Association (ARMA) states that “based on 20 years of research dedicated to the safe use of asphalt in roofing, ARMA believes that IARC’s finding is at odds with the available scientific evidence.” Regarding the studies referenced by IARC, ARMA further states that “in nearly every case the scientific validity of these studies has been compromised by the inability to exclude the effects of other known carcinogenic agents that are entirely unrelated to asphalt but are often present in these study populations.”

A 2002 Georgetown University analysis studied employees in our plants that manufacture and use the asphalt classified by IARC. The study found no association between exposure to asphalt fumes and the risk of either lung cancer or non-malignant respiratory disease.

The safety of products is our top priority. We were industry leaders in inventing low-fuming built-up roofing asphalts (TruLo Max[®] asphalt) designed to reduce occupational exposure to asphalt fume emissions and BURA technology (PermaMop[®] asphalt) that can be applied in the field at reduced temperatures resulting in lower levels of fume emissions during application. We have also worked extensively with the National Roofing Contractors Association (NCRA), the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), ARMA and others to develop specific installation guidelines and training programs that promote the safe installation of our products.

We will continue to extensively evaluate the safety of our roofing products – independently and in partnership with ARMA, AI, IARC and others. We have formed an internal working group to thoroughly and rigorously review IARC’s findings and reassess all available scientific findings/literature on asphalts as they relate to the safety of our products. In addition, we are also involved in an industry-wide study (to be completed in 2012) that is designed to extrapolate from IARC’s animal studies the risk, if any, of cancer in humans.

The attached “FAQ” document is intended to help answer some of the questions you may have. I encourage you to consult your sales representative or call me directly should you have any questions. We are committed to open communication with you about this important issue and are here to address any concerns you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jim E. Burkett".

Jim Burkett
BURA Business Manager
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