

## CODING FORMS FOR SRC INDEXING

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Document Title	INITIAL SUBMISSION: LTR FROM SAINT-GOBAIN CORP TO USEPA RE EPIDEMIOLOGICAL MORTALITY STDY AMNG WORKERS IN SILICON CARBIDE MANUFACTURING PLANTS, DATED 060500				
Chemical Category	SILICON CARBIDE				

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June 5, 2000

MR 36637

TO BE SENT BY CERTIFIED MAIL

Document Processing Center (TS-790)  
(Attn: Section 8 (e) Coordinator)  
Office of Toxic Substances  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
401 "M" Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20460

Contain NO CBI

2000 JUN 13 AM 11:20  
RECEIVED  
DPT/CBIC

**Re: Unpublished Results of Studies of Norwegian Population Employed in the Silicon Carbide Industry**

Dear Sir or Madam:

Pursuant to Section 8(e) of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), Saint-Gobain Corporation wants to inform you about an epidemiological mortality study among workers in several silicon carbide manufacturing plants (SIC 3291). The study, conducted by researchers from the Norwegian Cancer Registry Institute for Epidemiological Cancer Research, included plant workers employed in three Norwegian plants (two of which are Saint-Gobain facilities) during the period 1913 through 1996.

While some information pertaining to the preliminary results has come to our attention, we have not been provided with a published report. The information we have received to date indicates that, by reference to national statistics in Norway, the study group experienced higher than expected mortality and cancer for lungs and stomach. We have no definitive information pertaining to the magnitude of any particular risk, or with respect to the extent of scientific validation. Furthermore, we have no definitive information in connection with comparisons to local cancer rates, or to possible links to various airborne contaminants released by the silicon carbide production process.

We understand that, in April 2000, the researchers submitted their findings for publication in a scientific journal.

We realize that the above information is incomplete, but expect to gain further insight when the Norwegian paper is published. Considering the preliminary information, and notwithstanding that the three plants studied were all involved in both the manufacture and processing of silicon carbide grains (two different industrial operations; the researchers did not identify the risk attached to each type of operation), Saint-Gobain has enhanced its occupational health program within its Silicon Carbide division worldwide, including a silicon carbide grain processing plant located in the U.S. at Worcester, Massachusetts.

Sincerely,

*Lawrence J. Mellon, M.D.*

Lawrence J. Mellon, M.D.  
Medical Director



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2000 JUN 26 AM 9:17