

Total net sales increased 4%, from US\$1,488.5 million to US\$1,542.9 million.

Gross profit increased 4% from US\$550.8 million to US\$573.0 million.

Gross profit margin increased 0.1 of a percentage point to 37.1%.

Net operating profit (loss) decreased from a net operating loss of US\$506.7 million in fiscal year 2006 to a net operating profit of US\$151.7 million in fiscal year 2007. This figure includes asbestos adjustments for the full year of US\$405.5 million and a tax benefit related to implementing the Amended FFA of US\$335.0 million. Net operating profit excluding the asbestos adjustments and the tax benefit related to implementing the Amended FFA increased 6% to US\$222.2 million.

EBIT excluding asbestos adjustments increased by 14% to US\$318.9 million, compared to US\$280.7 million for the prior year.

EBIT margin excluding asbestos adjustments increased by 1.8 percentage points to 20.7%.

As a percentage of sales, SG&A expenses decreased by 0.2 of a percentage point to 13.9%.

Diluted earnings per share excluding asbestos adjustments and tax benefit related to implementing the Amended FFA increased from US45.2 cents to US47.6 cents.

Dividends of US9.0 cents per share /CUFS were paid during the year to 31 March 2007.

## **HIGHLIGHTS**



(Millions of US dollars)		2007		2006	% Change
Net sales					
USA Fibre Cement	\$	1,262.3	\$	1,218.4	4
Asia Pacific Fibre Cement		251.7		241.8	4
Other		28.9		28.3	2
Total net sales		1,542.9		1,488.5	4
Cost of goods sold		(969.9)		(937.7)	(3)
Gross profit		573.0		550.8	4
Selling, general and administrative expenses		(214.6)		(209.8)	(2)
Research and development expenses		(25.9)		(28.7)	10
Special Commission of Inquiry and other related expenses		(13.6)		(17.4)	22
Impairment of roofing plant		_		(13.4)	_
Asbestos adjustments		(405.5)		(715.6)	43
Other operating expense		_		(0.8)	
EBIT		(86.6)		(434.9)	80
Net interest expense		(6.5)		(0.2)	
Operating loss from continuing operations before income taxes		(93.1)		(435.1)	79
Income tax benefit (expense)		243.9		(71.6)	
Operating profit (loss) from continuing operations					
before cumulative effect of change in accounting principle	\$	150.8	\$	(506.7)	_
Net operating profit (loss)	\$	151.7	\$	(506.7)	
Volume (mmsf)					
USA Fibre Cement		2,148.0		2,182.8	(2)
Asia Pacific Fibre Cement		390.8		368.3	6
Average net sales price per unit (per msf)					
USA Fibre Cement	US\$	588	US\$	558	5
Asia Pacific Fibre Cement	A\$	842	A\$	872	(3)