

Hazardous material labeling is under study by an OSHA advisory committee, and labor members have called for changes in asbestos product labeling.

NIOSH

A new electron microscope laboratory has been provided at Cincinnati and is being used to investigate the quantity and size distribution of asbestos fibers and other aerosols in occupational environments. Emphasis is on submicron particles and fibers less than 5 microns long.

EPA

EPA is undertaking a thorough investigation of the presence of asbestos in all areas of the environment. The work involves contract studies, in-house research and joint activities with other government agencies.

There is considerable concern regarding the effectiveness of the "no visible emissions" standard in protecting the public from airborne asbestos. Pressure is on EPA from labor representatives and medical and environmental groups for a "no detectable level" regulation.

EPA proposed waste disposal restrictions would create problems for some friction materials manufacturers.

FDA

A delay has been imposed on FDA's proposal to ban use of asbestos in filters for beverages and food products until they can conduct experiments to determine if long term exposure to ingested asbestos fibers represent a definitive hazard to human health.

A four million dollar animal feeding study has been approved for determination of health effects from ingesting various doses of various kinds of asbestos.

FTC

Study is in progress in response to a petition from CSPI (Nader group) in regard to labeling of asbestos-containing products.

CPSC

There is no known action by this agency in regard to asbestos at this time.