FILE NAME: Longview Fibre (LF)

DATE: 1973 May 5

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DEPARTMENT INSTRUCTIONS
LONGVIEW

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Date 5-7-73
Supersedes Issue of New

C Denotes Change

SUBJECT SAFETY-ASBESTOS DUST CONTROL

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SUMMARY:

OSHA has issued some very restrictive regulations to be followed while working with asbestos, or products containing asbestos. A "safe exposure limit" has been established for asbestos particles in the air. If the air contains less than the safe exposure limit, only a few precautions are necessary. If the air contains, or can be expected to contain, more asbestos particles than the safe exposure limit, many precautions must be taken.

SAFE EXPOSURE LIMIT:

At the present time, the maximum safe exposure limit is an 8-hour average airborne concentration of 5 asbestos fibers per cubic centimeter of air. Only those fibers longer than 5 microns are counted. (It takes 5,080 fibers 5 microns long to make one inch.) Below this concentration, no personal protective equipment is required.

Air containing asbestos concentrations greater than 5 fibers per cubic centimeter may be worked in for shorter periods of time without personal protective equipment provided the 8-hour average is not greater than 5 fibers. The maximum exposure at any one time, without personal protective equipment, is 10 fibers.

Beginning July 1, 1976, the maximum safe exposure limit will be reduced from 5 fibers to 2 fibers.

MONITORING FOR ASBESTOS DUST:

Current jobs using asbestos, or products containing asbestos, are to be tested for airborne contamination. Whenever tests are needed, the involved departments should notify our Technical Department who will then arrange for the tests to be made.

The air test samples are to be taken within the breathing zones of employees, and in the general work areas.

If the monitoring tests indicate concentrations above the safe exposure limit, additional tests must be taken every 6 months.

Involved employees, or their representatives, are to be informed of the monitoring tests, and of the results.

Any employee found to have been exposed to concentrations greater than the safe exposure limit is to be notified in writing within 5 days of the findings. He is also to be notified of the corrective actions to be taken.

continued

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ENGINEERING OR WORK PROCEDURE CONTROLS:

A. If the asbestos dust concentration in the air is more than the maximum safe limit, or if the work can be expected to create excessive dust, engineering controls must be applied to reduce the concentration to the safe limit.

Engineering controls include such considerations as:

1. A change in operating methods. (From dry to wet, from drilling to punching, from asbestos products to a different material, etc.) Dry asbestos cement, mortar, coatings, grout, plaster, etc., are not to be removed from their containers without first being wetted, or enclosed, or ventilated insofar as practical.

2. Isolation of the operation. (Move the operation to a location where the minimum number of employees would be involved.)

3. Enclose the operation, or the operator.

4. Install local exhaust ventilation at the operation, and install dust collectors. All hand and power tools creating excessive dust require local exhaust systems.

B. Whenever working with asbestos materials regardless of the asbesto dust concentration, all asbestos scrap, waste debris, sweepings and contaminated disposable clothing must be deposited immediately in polyethylene bags sealed with cord or wire and with caution label attached.

ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROLS:

Rotation of personnel may be used to limit the individual exposure to the 8-hour average.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT - RESPIRATORS:

Respirators must be used at all times while working with asbestos or asbestos containing material and the exposure is above the allowable limits. Our tests indicate that we have no exposures exceeding 50 fibers per cc providing proper work procedures are followed. The approved respirator for all exposures within this limit is the 3M Respirator No. 8710 which is stocked in the storeroom. On July 1, 1976, the allowable limit for this respirator will be reduced to 20 fibers per cc. Any exposures which may exceed these limits will require a more sophisticated respirator. If it is necessary to work in exposures that exceed the above limits, contact the

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Safety Department for the approved type of respirator.

Contact the Safety Department for model approval before placing orders for purchase of any respirators to be used for asbestos exposure.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT - SPECIAL CLOTHING, LOCKERS AND LAUNDERING:

A. If the asbestos dust concentration in the air is greater than the allowable limit or if the concentration is unknown but is likely to be greater than the allowable limit; coveralls, head covering, gloves, and foot coverings MUST be used. This special clothing is required for all asbestos handling and demolition.

If special clothing is required, 2 separate lockers are to be provided for each involved employee. The lockers are to be separated to prevent the asbestos dust on the work clothing from getting on the street clothing.

If special clothing is required, when the used clothing is sent to the laundry, it should be placed in sealed containers. The containers are to be clearly marked with an Asbestos Caution Label and with instructions to prevent the release of asbestos dust into the air. If disposable clothing is used, it should be disposed in sealed containers which are clearly marked.

In cases where asbestos is handled and it is known that the concentration of asbestos fibers is below the allowable limits, modest precautions should be taken where feasible. Special clothing is not required, however, asbestos dust should be vacuumed from those clothes and a respirator should be worn where feasible.

B. MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS:

If employees can be expected to be exposed to asbestos dust concentrations greater than the safe exposure limit, medical examinations must be given to those employees. The examinations are to be arranged by the medical center and paid by the Company.

If medical examinations are necessary, they are to be conducted on the following schedule:

1. Within one month after being assigned to work in an area containing asbestos dust.

2. Once a year while working in the area.

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3. Within one month before or after termination of employment from the area.

4. The initial examination and the terminal examination do not need to be conducted if the Company records or the employee's records prove that the employee had a medical examination for asbestos within the past 12 months.

CLEANUP:

All surfaces are to be kept free of loose asbestos dust. Dry brushing or sweeping is not allowed. Either use a vacuum cleaner, or flush the surfaces with water. Clothing is to be cleaned with a vacuum cleaner before the clothing is removed.

Asbestos dust is to be disposed of in sealed containers, and identified with the Caution Label.

CAUTION SIGNS AND LABELS:

Caution signs must be posted if the asbestos dust concentrations in an area are greater than the safe exposure limit, or if the concentrations can reasonably be expected to be greater than the safe limit. The signs must be posted in the clean area at all entrances to the contaminated area. The wording for the sign is "ASBESTOS - DUST HAZARD - AVOID BREATHING DUST - WEAR ASSIGNED PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT - DO NOT REMAIN IN AREA UNLESS YOUR WORK REQUIRES IT- BREATHING ASBESTOS DUST MAY BE HAZARDOUS TO YOUR HEALTH."

Caution labels must be attached to all products containing asbestos if through normal use (storage, handling, disposal, etc.) it can be expected that asbestos fibers above the safe limit will be released into the air. The wording for the label is "CAUTION - CONTAINS ASBESTOS FIBERS - AVOID CREATING DUST - BREATHING ASBESTOS DUST MAY CAUSE SERIOUS BODILY HARM."

RECORDKEEPING:

All records of monitoring tests are to be kept for 3 years. The Technical Service Department will keep these records.

The test records are to be made available, upon request to OSHA Federal and State Compliance Officers. Also, any employee or former employee, upon request, is to be informed of the material in the records which indicates his exposure to asbestos fibers.

All records of medical examinations are to be kept for 20 years. Our Medical Department will maintain this record.

Records of the medical examination are to be made available, upon request, to OSHA Federal and State Compliance Officers, physicians, or medical consultants representing OSHA, and physicians representing specific employees or former employees.