FILE NAME: Union Carbide (UC)

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Union Carbide-187

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29 December 1971

COPY TO

SUBJECT Emergency Standards for Exposure to Asbestos Dust

Gentlemen

Pursuant to the authority granted by the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, the Assistant Secretary of Labor published an emergency standard for exposure to asbestos dust in the Federal Register, Vol. 36, No. 234, December 7, 1971. Copies of the cited Federal Register should be available in each plant for your reference. I am enclosing at least one copy of the regulations to a recipient in each of the Gulf Coast Plants.

A review of the new standard reveals the following pertinent items:

(1) The TLV for asbestos dust is changed from 12 fibers per milliliter greater than 5 microns in length, to 5 fibers per milliliter greater than 5 microns in length. Concentrations between 5 and 10 fibers per milliliter are permitted under certain limited conditions.

(2) Specific respiratory protective devices are designated for variable exposure levels.

(3) Specific respirator programs must be provided in accordance with the American National Standard Practice for Respiratory Protection, Z88.2-1969.

(4) All hand or power operated tools which produce asbestos dust must be provided with local exhaust ventilation and dust collectors in accordance with ANSI Z9.2-1971.

(5) Asbestos cement, mortar, coatings, grout, and plaster must be mixed in closed bags or other containers.

(6) Asbestos waste and scrap must be sealed in bags or other containers.

UCTC 10949

(7) All cleanup of asbestos dust must be performed by v .uum leaners. No dry sweeping shall be performed.

If there are any specific questions you would like to discuss regarding this emergency standard, please contact either me or Mr. Donald Deese. Either of us will be glad to provide whatever assistance we can to implement these standards.

Very truly yours,

R. E. Joyner, M.D.
Medical Director, Gulf Coast Area

REJ/eb