

FILE NAME: Kent (KNT)

DATE: 1949-1958

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DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Recommended Safe Practices - Asbestos -
Hazard Classification - Mass. Dept. of Labor & Industries

ASBESTOS

HAZARD CLASSIFICATION DUST - VERY HARMFUL - May cause asbestosis.

GENERAL Asbestos is a fibrous mixture of various silicates, mainly the hydrated silicate of magnesium with additional quantities of iron, aluminum, sodium, potassium and calcium. The fibrous characteristic, rather than the chemical composition, is responsible for the harmful tissue changes in the lungs. Industrial asbestos is chiefly derived from Canada, Italy and the Transvaal.

Asbestos is used in a variety of products. The long fibres are used in the textile industry for the manufacture of cloth, braid, rope, theatre curtains, etc. The shorter fibres together with an agglomerating agent are used in the manufacture of felt, paper, cardboard, varnishes, covering agents, cements, and rubber tires.

HARMFUL EFFECTS May cause asbestosis, a disease of the lungs in which the affected lung tissue becomes partially collapsed and fibrotic. The unaffected lung tissue tends to become dilated and emphysematous. The signs and symptoms are cough, expectoration, shortness of breath, weight loss, and easy fatigability. Occasionally, asbestos corns may occur in the skin of the hands caused by penetration of asbestos fibers into the layers of the skin. It takes five to ten years for asbestosis to develop. Death, in these cases, is usually the result of infection of the lungs, such as tuberculosis, or from congestive heart disease.

MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE CONCENTRATION For continuous exposure to respirable dust the maximum allowable concentration is 5 million particles of asbestos dust per cubic foot of air.

PROTECTIVE MEASURES The asbestos dust should be controlled at the point of origin by use of local exhaust systems or wet methods. The operation dispersing the dust should be isolated or enclosed, or the operation so changed as to eliminate the dispersion of the dust. Approved dust type respirators are recommended only as a last resort.

MEDICAL CONTROL Pre-employment physical examination including an X-ray of the chest should be required of all employees where exposure to excessive dust will be encountered.

Individuals with a history of tuberculosis should not be placed in a dusty atmosphere. Periodic physical examinations including chest X-rays should be required at least annually of all persons employed in dusty asbestos operations.

MASS. DEPT. OF LABOR & INDUSTRIES
DIVISION OF OCCUPATIONAL HYGIENE

Asbestos

CONFIDENTIAL PURSUANT TO THE
RERARDI PROTECTIVE ORDER DATED
JANUARY 7, 1991

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HARMFUL EFFECTS Prolonged exposure to asbestos dust will cause in susceptible individuals a chronic lung disorder known as "asbestosis." This condition tends to develop very slowly (usually within five to 10 years), and its effect upon the worker's ability to work may be slight. The first signs of disease are tendency to cough and expectoration, chest pain, and weight loss. Examination of the sputum may reveal so-called asbestos bodies. X-ray films will show changes in varying extent which are considered characteristic for asbestosis. The disease tends to progress slowly but may not interfere with a worker's ability to perform work until late. At that time there may be marked shortness of breath or signs of heart failure. Some observers have reported an increased tendency to lung cancer in patients suffering from asbestosis.

Skin lesions occur if small fibers of asbestos are imbedded into the skin and cause a local foreign-body reaction ("asbestos corn").

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MEDICAL CONTROL

A pre-employment physical examination, with special emphasis on pulmonary findings, and a good chest film should be required for all personnel to be exposed to asbestos dust. The X-ray films and physical examinations should be repeated at regular intervals during the employee's exposure in order to detect early cases.

TREATMENT

There is no specific therapy known. Workers with recognizable lung involvement should be removed from asbestos exposure.

Massachusetts Department of Labor and Industries
Division of Occupational Hygiene

No. 718

Supersedes No. 492

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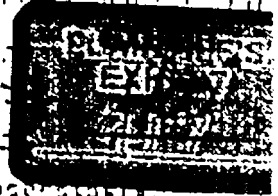
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RECOMMENDED SAFE PRACTICES

MINERAL DATA SHEET NO.

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