



Bell Laboratories

Subject: Instruction Sheet for Packaging and
Collection of Asbestos Samples Mailed
to Bell Labs for Analysis

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From: Bell System
Service Group

INSTRUCTIONS

Many asbestos samples mailed to Bell Laboratories for analysis are improperly packaged and thus present a hazard to the receiving party upon opening. Bulk samples are sometimes packaged with air samples which can contaminate the air samples and make analytical results questionable. This instruction sheet lists proper collection and handling procedures for asbestos and samples suspected of containing asbestos.

Bulk Asbestos Sample Collection from Insulation

Correct:

- 1) A bulk sample is collected to determine whether or not the suspect material contains asbestos.
- 2) A small sealable glass or plastic capped container such as quarter collection tubes sold at the 5 & 10 should be used to collect the bulk sample.
- 3) Holding the container as far as possible from the face, obtain a full thickness core sample by penetrating the surface with the container using a twisting motion.
- 4) Any surface coating such as paint must be penetrated. The container is then capped, wiped, and sealed with tape.
- 5) Large bulk samples such as asbestos blankets should be submitted contained in heavy sealed plastic bags.

Incorrect:

Samples should not be submitted in:

- 1) Baggy plastic bags
- 2) Envelopes
- 3) Wrapped in cellophane
- 4) Wrapped in aluminum foil
- 5) Wrapped in paper towel

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