

In 1946, the Fleischer-Drinker Report was published, this being a health survey of workers engaged in pipe covering operations using asbestos materials in the construction of Naval vessels. This report concluded that that type of employment was relatively safe.^{7/}

With the 20-20 vision of hindsight, we now know that this report was misleading, primarily because the authors did not realize the long latency of the disease.

In 1947 the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists first issued guidelines suggesting threshold limit values for exposure to asbestos dust. The first TLV was 5,000,000 parts per cubic foot of air, which was later reduced, in 1968, to 2,000,000. The current threshold limit values are expressed in numbers of fibers per cubic centimeter, and the current threshold limit value is two fibers per cubic centimeter.

It was not until 1965 that the prevalence of asbestosis among insulation workers was widely publicized. This first came in the form of a report published by Dr. Irving J. Selikoff and others in the Annals of the New York Academy of Science.^{8/}

7/ Fleischer, W. E. et al. A Health Survey of Pipe Covering Operations in Constructing Voal Vessels. J. Ind. Hyg. Toxicol. 28, 9 (1946).

8/ Selikoff, I. J., Churg, J. and Hammond, E. C., The Occurrence of Asbestosis among Insulation Workers in the United States. Ann. N.Y. Acad. Sci., 132, 139 (1965).