

1001-
Western Electric

222 Broadway
New York, N.Y. 10038
212 671-4533

P. G. Matt, Jr.
General Manager
Corporate Engineering
and Quality Assurance

TO ALL GENERAL MANAGERS

Re: Employee Exposure to Asbestos

I am writing to voice my concern, and the concerns of Dr. Cassuto and the Medical Organization, regarding the handling and use of asbestos, an identified carcinogen, within Western Electric. We trust that your location has made substantial progress toward eliminating the purchase and use of asbestos containing materials. However, it should not be assumed that by eliminating asbestos containing materials in our production processes, and in the construction of new plants and facilities, that we have eliminated all potential exposures. On the contrary, the potential for asbestos exposures will continue for some years due to past uses of asbestos (i.e. insulation on steam pipes, boilers and tanks, asbestos fire stops in cable runs and vaults, etc.) and exposures resulting from present uses of asbestos where suitable substitutes are not yet available (i.e. motor vehicle brake and clutch maintenance).

Particular attention should be given to the following requirements of the OSHA standard 1910.1001, which regulates asbestos.

1910.1001 (c)(2)(iii) of the OSHA asbestos standard states:

"Spraying, demolition or removal" - Employees engaged in.....the removal or demolition of asbestos insulation or covering shall be provided with respiratory equipment and with special clothing in accordance with..... (this standard)."

1910.1001 (d)(2)(iv) states:

"Establishment of a respirator program" - The employer shall establish a respirator program in accordance with the requirements of the American National Standards Practices for Respiratory Protection, ANSI Z38.2-1969

PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT

ATT-186

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1910.1001 (f)(2)(i) states:

"Personal Monitoring - Samples shall be collected from within the breathing zone of employees..... Samples shall be taken for the determination of the eight hour time weighted average airborne concentration and ceiling concentrations of asbestos fibers".

The OSHA compliance officers have interpreted that, since spraying, demolition or removal work are done intermittently, and because the concentration of asbestos fibers may vary considerably, monitoring must be conducted each time work of this nature, involving asbestos, is performed, and the monitoring must be conducted irrespective of the provision and use of respiratory protective equipment.

1910.1001 (j)(1) states:

"Medical Examinations - The employer shall provide, or make available at his cost, medical examinations relative to exposure to asbestos....."

In a decision provided by the U. S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit on June 28, 1977 (GAF Corp. v. OSHRC, Docket No. 76-1028), it was ruled that medical examinations must be provided for workers exposed to airborne asbestos fibers in any measurable quantity.

Until such time that suitable substitutes are found for all applications and asbestos containing materials are totally eliminated from our locations, we urge that suitable engineering controls be used to minimize the risk of exposing employees to excessive concentrations of asbestos fibers. General Corporate Guidelines and the requirements of the OSHA standard have been recently sent to all safety and health organizations by our Bioenvironmental Engineering Department.

Please convey our concerns to the appropriate Industrial Hygiene and Engineering personnel at your location, and provide them with the support necessary to ensure the full protection of our employees from this and other health hazards. It is only with your support that the Company will meet both our legal and moral obligations to Western Electric's employees.


General Manager,
Corporate Engineering
and Quality Assurance

Copy to:

Dr. J. Cassuto - Guilford Center
J. F. Griggs - Guilford Center
R. A. Levitt - Guilford Center

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