

ASBESTOS HANDLING PROCEDURES1. General Precautions.

Know and follow the following recommended work practices for handling asbestos fiber. In all stages of handling, packaging, transporting, unloading, storing, and in-plant moving, asbestos fiber bags should be handled carefully and in such a manner as to prevent damage to bags and the generation of dust.

Damaged bags should be immediately repaired, resealed or put into closed receptacles. Any spillage of asbestos fiber should be cleaned up immediately - either by vacuum equipment or, after thoroughly wetting, by sweeping - and should be deposited in suitable closed receptacles.

2. Unloading.

Unitized loads should be lifted intact by forklift trucks. Hooks or other sharp instruments should not be used. Loose fiber accumulated during transit should be picked up by vacuum cleaner before unloading.

3. Storage.

For storage, fiber bags should be stacked and moved with care to avoid breakage; protected from puncture by moving vehicles; and, if possible, should be isolated from traffic in the warehouse. Rotate inventory.

4. Handling.

Fully effective dust control systems should be operated at all stages of inplant handling where dust is created, such as in bag opening, fiber dumping and bag disposal operations. Loose fiber should be cleaned from work areas by vacuum cleaner or after thoroughly wetting, by sweeping, and then deposited in properly labeled, sealed, impermeable bags.

5. Protective Equipment.

Wearing of respiratory equipment approved for protection against asbestos dust should be required at all stages of asbestos fiber handling where quantities of dust are generated which cannot be kept within allowable limits by dust control equipment or other methods.

6. Transport.

Where the use of asbestos requires the transport of loose fiber, covers should be employed on any vehicles or containers used in order to prevent spilling and dust generation.

7. Waste Material.

Waste material, such as collected dust and empty fiber bags, should be collected and disposed of in properly labeled, closed, impermeable containers or sealed, impermeable bags. Safety practices outlined above in the HANDLING and PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT sections should be followed during these operations.

All dust from exhaust systems should be collected and safely disposed of, being careful not to release dust into the outside air. Particular attention should be paid to hygiene practices by employees whose job it is to dispose of collected dust from fabric filter dust collection and similar cleaning operations.