

Memo

To: Distribution
From: Craig R. Larson
Date: June 21, 1993
Re: Asbestos Institute Brochure

Attached is recent quarterly report from the Asbestos Institute which discusses carcinogenicity of fibrous materials and the effect of asbestos fibers in the general environment.

Of particular interest is the discussion of fibrous materials; I've provided the underline for further emphasis of certain statements. The article provides additional discussion on the potential health effects of fibers other than those typically associated with fiber dimensions. Essentially, the biopersistence of a fiber is a key aspect of the fibers ability to induce an adverse response by the surrounding tissue. That "**different fibers of similar dimensions may vary significantly in their health effects**" is an additional parameter in our understanding the pathogenic potential of respirable fibers. There is also a very nice graph depicting the durability of common fibers which clearly shows that chrysotile asbestos on the lower end of the spectrum in regards to fiber durability.

I would also like to point out the discussion of mass versus fiber dosage which provides interesting discrepancies when using mass dose experiments due to the significant differences in mass unit weights of the particle or fiber involved. Basically, its the old story of comparing "apples to oranges"!

Its something to keep in mind when reading toxicological studies or when contemplating new fibers for development.

Also attached is an organizational announcement for the appointment of Dan Levine as the Director of Product Safety and Integrity.

Craig

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