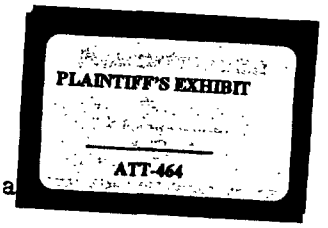
(GL70-06-225)

SUBJECT: BUILDINGS: Sprayed Asbestos Fireproofing

American Telephone & Telegraph Company
195 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10007
212 393-9800

DATE June 23, 1970

FILE NO. 1A5



TO Chief Engineers (copies to Building Engineers and Medical Directors)

FROM Engineering Director-Equipment and Buildings

SYNOPSIS Indicates possible health hazards with the use of sprayed-asbestos fireproofing, glass fiber or asbestos interior duct linings.

* * *

Recent articles in various building trade publications and newspapers have referred to possible health hazards associated with the use of sprayed asbestos fireproofing on steel-framed buildings. Medical research has indicated that asbestos fibers can be injurious to an individual's health. Therefore, if asbestos fireproofing is proposed or specified on a building project, it must be applied in such a manner as not to endanger the individuals applying the asbestos or people in the vicinity of the application.

The use of asbestos or glass fiber for interior duct lining has also been questioned as a possible health hazard. Suspended ceiling supply or return air plenums lined with asbestos or fiberglass are susceptible to contaminating the air stream with fibers from ceiling panels and/or asbestos fibers from fireproofed structural members. Methods to preserve the use of these materials in building construction and not create a health hazard are being developed.

Advice and recommendations pertaining to developments in the solution to this problem will be furnished as soon as they are available. In the meantime, we would suggest that you review the design criteria and application methods proposed on any buildings now being designed or in early stages of construction, that may be involved with using asbestos or glass fiber material. Alternative methods of applying fireproofing or lining the interior of air ducts should be considered.

We would appreciate any local information on application methods or special surface treatments that have been used to gain acceptance of the use of these materials.

At Dr. E. Schowalter's request, this letter is also being sent to Medical Directors.

W. H. Turner

GWH:DAL

Engineering Director

005665

CONFIDENTIAL