

U.S. Department of Labor

Occupational Safety and Health Administration
Washington, D.C. 20210

Reply to the Attention of:

SEP 5 1986



MEMORANDUM FOR: GIBERT J. SAULTER
Regional Administrator

FROM: CHARLES E. ADKINS *Charles E. Adkins*
Acting Director
Health Standards Programs

THROUGH: JOHN B. MILES, JR. *JB*
Director
Field Operations

SUBJECT: Asbestos Construction Standard
a) Competent Person
b) OSHA Reference Method

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This is in response to your memo of July 25 requesting clarification as to the minimum qualifications a "competent person" must possess and for clarification as to what constitutes a method equivalent to the OSHA Reference Method (Appendix A) for asbestos sampling and analysis.

A "competent person" must have academic credentials and/or field experience in asbestos abatement. By virtue of his or her background, this individual will be capable of identifying existing asbestos hazards in the workplace and will be a person who has the authority to take prompt corrective measures to eliminate them, as specified in §1926.32(f). The "competent person" will be knowledgeable of the contents of the new asbestos standard (29 CFR 1926.58), the identification of asbestos and its removal procedures, and other practices for reducing the hazard. This individual must also have attended an EPA-approved training course or be State certified in those States with asbestos abatement certification and training programs. (States with certification and training programs are Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, New Jersey, Oklahoma, Ohio, Rhode Island, Tennessee and Washington.)

In regard to your second question, methods equivalent to the OSHA Reference Method are the NIOSH 7400 method (Revision #2) and the OSHA ID 160 method developed by the OSHA Salt Lake City Laboratory. Any other method would have to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis by our laboratory.

PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT

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