

FILE NAME: Flooring Defense Exhibits (FLDX)

DATE: 1979 May

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DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Memo - Dept of the Navy RE Report on Industrial Hygiene Survey of Airborne Asbestos Concentrations from Vinyl-Asbestos Tile Operations



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23 May 1979

From: Commanding Officer, Naval Regional Medical Clinic, Hawaii
To: Commander, Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard (Attn: Code 140)

Subj: Industrial Hygiene Survey of Airborne Asbestos Concentrations
from Vinyl-Asbestos Tile Operations; report on

Ref: (a) Code 140 memo B-104 Code 142.123 of 9 May 1979
(b) DHEW Criteria for a Recommended Standard ... Occupational
Exposure to Asbestos, NIOSH Publication HSM 72-10267, 1972
(c) OSHA 2206 (29 CFR 1910) Jan 1976
(d) OPNAVINST 6260.1A, Control of Asbestos Exposure to Naval
Personnel and Environs

1. Reference (a) requested the NRMC Industrial Hygiene Branch to determine concentrations of airborne asbestos fibers generated during a typical shipboard installation of vinyl-asbestos floor tile. Consequently, the subject survey was conducted on 16 May 1979 by Mr. Harry Ginoza, NRMC Industrial Hygienist.

2. The simulated operation was conducted on the second deck of Shop 64, Building 7. An area was swept clean and then covered with wrapping paper. Two men went through the procedure of laying the floor tile on the paper and cutting some of the tiles using a linoleum knife. The tile used is identified as FLINTKOTE Vinyl Asbestos Floor Tile, FSN 7320-634-5321, manufactured by Flintkote Company, Los Angeles, CA. Breathing zone samples for one hour and for 15-minute intervals were obtained on both men as they laid and cut the tiles. In addition, a general area sample was obtained at the edge of the work. To simulate the worst possible condition, a 15-minute breathing zone sample was also obtained while a worker was cutting and shaving a floor tile. Throughout the whole operation, both men wore surgical rubber gloves and 3M 8710 respirable dust respirators.

3. Analysis of each sample was performed according to the procedure outlined in reference (b). The results showed that no asbestos fiber was found in any of the samples analyzed. All results are well below the Threshold Limit Value (TLV) of 2 fibers per cubic centimeter of air stated in references (c) and (d). These results were not unexpected for the following reasons:

a. The installation and cutting operations do not create any asbestos dust

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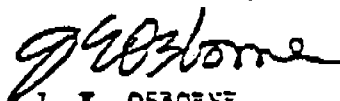
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b. The few asbestos fibers which are present are tightly bound in
the vinyl tile.

Based on the results of the sample analysis, the operation of laying
and cutting the vinyl-asbestos tile should constitute no potential
health hazards to the workers.

4. If there are any questions pertaining to this report, please contact
Mr. Harry Ginoza at 474-4242.



J. E. OSBORNE
By direction

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