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June 17, 1974

AT&T
American Telephone and
Telegraph Company
195 Broadway
New York, N. Y. 10007
Phone (212) 393-9800

PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT

SWB-138

Mr. G. M. Wilkening, Head
Environmental Safety and Health Department
Bell Telephone Laboratories
600 Mountain Avenue
Murray Hill, New Jersey 07974

Dear George:

The Bell System Practices section covering the placement of fiber-cement (transite) conduit is due for revision. Since the material contains some asbestos, we would like to determine the appropriate precautions, if any, that should be followed when cutting the duct during work operations as per OSHA standard on exposure to asbestos fiber.

In order for us to determine if any precautions are necessary, we would appreciate your initiating a program to determine:

1. The level of airborne asbestos fibers that employees could be exposed to when the duct is cut with a regular saw while it is dry;

2. if the level of asbestos is high in (1) above,

   (a) does wetting the duct significantly reduce this level?

   (b) what is the level of exposure when the duct is cut with a circular device like a pipe cutter?

It is important that these tests be conducted in an open atmosphere, closely resembling the actual working environment.

Mr. R. Callahan, who can be reached on 212-393-4753, will be glad to answer any questions you may have on this request.

Very truly yours,

for R. Callahan
Manager - Safety and Supplies

J. T. O'Connell
Engineering Manager - Outside Plant
Methods and Materials

cc: C. Harmon - Practice Writer - Winston Salem
Dr. R. W. Stone - Medical Director - AT&T
G. R. Crimp - Assistant Engineering Manager - AT&T

MTW:mm

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Western Electric

J. C. Lake
Manager, ~~Common Installation~~ Installation
~~and Regional Engineering~~
Planning and Development

3800 Golf Road
Rolling Meadows, Ill. 60008
312 956-3165

APR 17 1974

MR. G. A. NAVARRO, Manager
Engineering Switching Equipment
and Step-by-Step PECC

Hawthorne Works

Re: Transite Cable Penetration Closures File: IE 600.3

At a conference held on March 22, 1974 in New York City with representatives from AT&T, BTL, CIE and WECo Medical Director, it was decided that the Bell System approach is to eliminate, wherever possible and practical, the fabrication of transite material under uncontrolled environment within Central Offices. This general policy means the elimination of transite material used in Central Offices as cable penetration closures on floors and walls.

Attached is a letter from BTL giving permission to substitute steel for transite on an interim basis. Since we want to eliminate any possible health hazards to our installers, we are requesting that you take immediate action to substitute steel for transite on all affected piece part drawings. The type of steel used for floor covers should be of similar thickness as the present ceiling covers.

We are recommending that the wall covers be made out of 1/16" thick steel. This matter was discussed with Mr. J. Simpson, BTL on April 8, 1974 and it was stated that the testing of wall closures should be completed by the 1st quarter of 1975.

J C Lake

Att.

Copy w/Att. to:
W. Pferd - Whippany-BTL
J. Simpson - Whippany-BTL
R. J. Laux - Hawthorne Works
R. J. Hibbeln - Hawthorne Works
W. E. Ruhlmann - Kearny Works
H. F. Fabregas - Kearny Works
A. Montgomery - Hawthorne Works

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Transite Cable Hole Cover
Plates - Case 20233-3

AS

Carpenter

Bell Laboratories

Whippany Road
Whippany, New Jersey 07981
Phone (201) 386-3000

MAR 2 1 RECD

March 18, 1974

Mr. J. Glowacki
Assistant Manager
Common Installation Engineering and Services
WE - Rolling Meadows

Re: Letter of June 5, 1973, concerning use of transite cable hole covers.

The health problems associated with the generation of asbestos particles in the field use of transite cable hole cover plates are fully understood by the Buildings and Power Laboratory. My department has completed a test program evaluating the fire resistance of cable holes packed with KS-5048 bags and is nearing completion of a similar evaluation program on the cable hole closure filled to 25 percent by volume with communication cable. A report is currently being issued on the first program and the report on the second group of tests will be issued shortly thereafter.

Based on the results from these two programs, it is our opinion that a steel cover plate, comparable to the present ceiling plate, should be used as an interim measure to replace the transite cover plate. It should be cut and handled identically to the ceiling plate. Several alternative materials are being considered for possible future use but will require test evaluation to determine their compatibility with closure design requirements. We shall keep you informed as to progress in this area.

for W. Pfund
Head
Telephone Building
Planning Department

WH-2431-CB-bfg

Copy to
Messrs. R. J. Finnerty - AT&T - 195 Broadway

R. M. Riley
J. Simpson
R. J. Skrabal
C. H. F. Spring

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