



**PABCO INSULATION DIVISION**  
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March 1, 1979

We have enclosed a copy of our Pabco Technical Bulletin PTB-48-7A,  
"Asbestos Identification in Old Calsil Insulation".

This bulletin updates and replaces PTB-48-7. Please remove this  
prior issue from your files and substitute the up to date information.

Thank you.

PABCO INSULATION DIVISION

mtc  
Enclosure

DUP 1153713

DU 062020

# Pabco technical bulletin

## Pabco high temperature insulating systems

PTB-48-7A  
February 15, 1979  
Replaces PTB-48-

### ASBESTOS IDENTIFICATION IN OLD CALSIL INSULATION\*

Because of the health hazards involved in working with asbestos, it is essential that old asbestos-containing calsil be properly identified to avoid accidental worker exposure during maintenance or removal procedures.

Prior to the early seventies, all calcium silicate insulation, and several other types as well, contained asbestos as the reinforcing fiber. Most of the asbestos used was chrysotile, but other types such as crocidolite and amosite were also used. All are hazardous to health.

Since the early seventies, all manufacturers have switched to either glass or organic fibers for reinforcement. Because of the refractory nature of asbestos fibers, they are not destroyed by the flame from a propane (Bernzomatic) torch. Rather, they glow as little incandescent rods in the propane flame. Since the newer fibers -- glass, rayon, polyester, cotton, etc. -- are destroyed by the propane flame, this provides an easy means of positive identification for asbestos.

The simple procedure is as follows.

1. Break a small piece of insulation off a section of calsil.
2. Heat the broken surface with the flame from a propane torch.
3. Observe. Figure 1 shows asbestos-containing material. The material in Figure 2 does not contain asbestos.
4. With some experience, a good worker can break off a chunk of insulation and tell by eye whether or not asbestos is present. A small magnifier makes the process even simpler to carry out.

\*NOTE: Since December, 1978, the Pabco Division started to mark all of their Super Caltemp production with an identifying green stripe that shows it is asbestos free.

"The technical data shown are considered by us to be accurate and reliable however no warranties express or implied are given or intended and any such warranties are expressly disclaimed."

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Figure No. 1

Appearance of asbestos-  
containing insulation  
in propane flame.  
Asbestos fiber does not  
melt and shows up as  
little glowing rods in  
the flame.

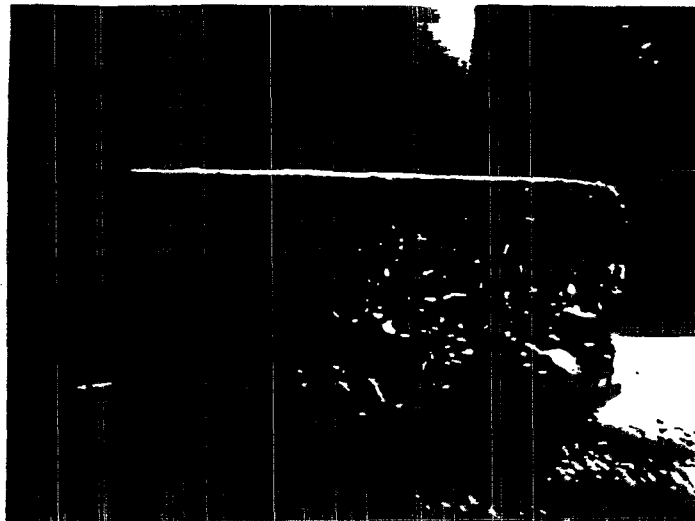


Figure No. 2

Appearance of non-  
asbestos insulation in  
propane flame. No rods.



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