

PROPOSED OSHA ASBESTOS STANDARD

October 9, 1975

On October 9, 1975, a new proposed OSHA asbestos standard was published in the Federal Register. The proposed standard has stricter requirements than the present OSHA standard. A summary of the proposed standard follows.

1. The Construction Industry is excluded.
2. Applies to all locations where asbestos or products containing asbestos is manufactured, processed, packaged, stored, applied, used or otherwise handled.
3. The allowable eight-hour time-weighted average concentration is 0.5 fibers/cc and the allowable ceiling concentration is 5 fibers/cc. (The present standard calls for a 2.0 fiber/cc average and 10 fiber/cc ceiling effective on 7-1-76.)
4. Regulated areas must be established where the allowable concentrations are exceeded.
 - a. Only authorized employees may enter area.
 - b. A daily roster of all persons entering the area must be maintained.
 - c. Respirators and respirator programs are required.
 - d. Employees must be allowed to leave the area to wash their face and clean their respirator.
 - e. No eating, drinking, smoking or chewing is allowed in the area.
 - f. Change rooms are required with separate lockers, showers, etc.
 - g. Employees must be provided daily with clean and dry protective clothing to include coveralls, head covering, gloves and foot covering.
5. Monitoring is required in all exposure areas.
 - a. Monthly if greater than the allowance exposure.
 - b. Quarterly if within the allowable exposure.
 - c. Can be discontinued if two consecutive samples within a certain time frame are within the allowable levels.
 - d. Not every employee need be monitored.
 - e. Required after every process change.