Gypsum Division Acme Plant

Texas State Department of Health

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PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT

GP-1446

September 22, 1972

Mr. K. W. Brown, Plant Manager
Georgia Pacific Corporation
Gypsum Division - Acme Plant
Box 330
Quanah, Texas 79252

Attention: Mr. Bill Howard
Safety Superintendent

Dear Mr. Brown:

An industrial hygiene survey was conducted at your plant on September 8, 1972 by Mr. Jerry F. Lauderdale, Assistant Engineer for our Industrial Hygiene Program, for the purpose of evaluating workers' exposure to asbestos in the Joint Systems Department. A copy of the report covering the observations and recommendations made as a result of the survey is enclosed.

We appreciate the cordial assistance given to Mr. Lauderdale by Mr. Bill Howard and the plant management during the survey.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if we may be of further assistance.

Yours very truly,

Martin C. Wukasch

Martin C. Wukasch, P.E., Director
Division of Occupational Health
and Radiation Control

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SGP 0022028

INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE SURVEY
Georgia Pacific Corporation
Gypsum Division - Acme Plant
Quanah, Texas

On September 8, 1972, an industrial hygiene survey was performed by Jerry F. Lauderdale, Assistant Engineer, Industrial Hygiene Program, Texas State Department of Health, for the purpose of detecting the exposure levels of employees in the Joint System Department to airborne asbestos fibers. The survey was requested by Mr. Bill Howard, Safety Superintendent, through the Texas Health Department, Air Pollution Control Program. Mr. Sterling Clark, Supervisor of the Joint System Department, and other employees gave cordial assistance in conducting the survey.

The Joint System Department mixes and packages a compound, GP Triple Duty Joint Compound, which is used in construction to smooth joints between wall boards. This compound contains about 7% asbestos fibers, which helps give the compound the desired texture. The asbestos is received in sacks; the sacks are opened and poured into a hopper for automatic mixing. The product is put in sacks and stacked on pallets for shipping.

Asbestos has recently been recognized as one of the more dangerous pneumoconiosis producing substances, with undisputable evidence connecting asbestos exposure to increased probability of lung cancers and mesothelioma, especially among workers who smoke cigarettes. The current federal and state standard adopted in the Federal Register, Volume 37, No. 110, pp. 11320-11322, Wednesday, June 7, 1972, a copy of which is included, calls for an average of no more than five fibers, greater than five micrometer, per cubic centimeter of air, with a maximum of no more than ten fibers, greater than micrometers, per cubic centimeter of air. This standard calls for a reduction on July 1, 1976, to two fibers, greater than 5 micrometers, per cubic centimeter of air. Further information on asbestos is contained in Occupational Exposure to Asbestos . . . criteria for a recommended standard, National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health, 1014 Broadway, Cincinnati, Ohio.

In order to evaluate workers' exposure to asbestos in this area, personal air samplers were placed on workers. Airborne asbestos fibers were collected in the workers' breathing zone on a 0.8 micrometer pore size membrane filter held in an open-face holder. The samples were then counted, using accepted procedures. Sample results are shown in Table 1.

The first operation sampled was the joint compound mixer. This worker took sacks of asbestos and other materials and dumped the desired amount into a hopper, which had an exhaust hood with three sides closed and a velocity of about 200 ft./min. through the open face. The mixer frequently put his head inside the hopper when dumping in asbestos.

Also, the mixer frequently had to dump half sacks and save the other half for the next batch, or weigh out the desired amount on a nearby scale. These work procedures undoubtedly exposed the worker to higher asbestos levels than would be encountered if all asbestos bag openings were done under the exhaust hood. The mixer and the other two workers in this area wore MSA Dustfore '66 respirators, BM 21B-113. Workers wore gloves and aprons. Table 1 shows samples 1-4 taken from the breathing zone of

the mixer. On the basis of these samples, it appears that the mixer is exposed to an average concentration of 7 fibers, greater than five micrometers, per cubic centimeter of air. Also, the sample #2 indicates an average of 10 fibers per cubic centimeter for a 74-minute time period; therefore, the worker must have been subjected to concentrations greater than the allowable maximum of 10 fibers per cubic centimeter.

Three samples were taken at the sack fillers breathing zone, (Nos. 5, 6, and 7, Table 1). Unfortunately, sample #7 was too loaded to count accurately. This indicates, however, that there is a good probability that the worker is exposed to greater than the allowable concentration of asbestos fibers. There was a local exhaust system over the sack filling spout, but dust was visibly escaping this system, especially when the sack was automatically kicked off the spout when it was full, and when it landed on the conveyor belt. An effective system should be designed to limit or capture this dust.

One sample was taken at the operation of joint compound sack stacking. A level of 13.7 fibers per cubic centimeter was recorded. This high level is probably due to dust escaping from the sacks as they are put on the stack and from dispersion of dust already on the outside of the sacks.

Control of the excessive asbestos concentrations by engineering methods is required by state and federal law, a copy of which is enclosed. Isolation, enclosure, exhaust ventilation and dust collection must be used to meet the exposure limits. Substitution of another substance might be the best solution to the asbestos problem.

In the time required to complete engineering controls, a respiratory protection program or shift rotation is required. It appears that the airborne concentration will not exceed ten times the legal limits; so a reusable or single use air purifying respirator approved for protection from airborne contaminants by the Bureau of Mines or the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health may be used. A respirator program shall be established in accordance with the requirements of the American National Standards Practices for Respiratory Protection, ANSI, Z88.2-1969. Provisions of the standard for protective clothing and change rooms shall be complied with.

The general areas of asbestos handling should be cleaned by vacuum sweeping, if possible. This will limit the asbestos dispersed into the air. Every method possible should be used to control asbestos containing dust. Plastic liners may be used to cover incoming shipments of bulk asbestos. All opening and weighing of the asbestos sacks must be done under local exhaust ventilation. Some handling changes or ventilation improvement is needed at the sack filling and stacking areas to limit of control dust. Better housekeeping in these areas is needed to prevent dust from accumulating and being reintrained into the air.

Other products packaged include a paint filter containing no asbestos. Efforts should also be made to control dust from these operations. Since these products do contain a fungicide, Fancide, the operators should wear reusable or single use respirators, approved for protection from toxic dusts by the U. S. Bureau of Mines or the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. It may be desirable to allow the workers to choose from several approved respirators. Reputable safety equipment suppliers can provide information on approved respirators.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Provide working procedures to best utilize dust control equipment, especially in the mixing operations.

2. Provide adequate dust limiting and control equipment in the bag filling and stacking areas.

3. Keep all work areas free from asbestos dust accumulations.

4. Provide a respirator program until engineering controls lower the concentration to acceptable limits.

5. Cover incoming bulk shipments of asbestos to limit spread of the fibers.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerry F. Lauderdale, Assistant Engineer
Industrial Hygiene Program
Division of Occupational Health
and Radiation Control

TABLE 1

	Location	Controls In Use	Sample Time (minutes)	Concentration Fibers/cc
1.	Mixer - placing bags of asbestos and other materials in mixer	Local exhaust booth, respirator, apron, gloves	11	4.8
2.	Mixer	Local exhaust booth, respirator, apron, gloves	74	10.0
3.	Mixer	Local axhaust booth, respirator, apron, gloves	22	8.2
4.	Mixer	Local exhaust booth, respirator, apron, gloves	20	1.0
5.	Joint compound sacker - putting sacks on automatic filling spout	Same local exhaust above filling spout, respirator, apron, gloves	15	5.3
6.	Sacker	Same local exhaust above filling spout, respirator, apron, gloves	33	1.5
7.	Sacker	Same local exhaust above filling spout, respirator, arpon, gloves	58	Too much dust to count sample
8.	Joint compound stacker	Respirator, apron, gloves	21	13.7

SGP 0022032

U.S. Asbestos Standard—The Text

Here is the complete text of the new standard for exposure to asbestos dust, as published in the Federal Register, *vol. 37, No. 110, pp. 11320-11322, Wednesday, June 7, 1972:*

§ 1910.93a Asbestos

(a) *Definitions.* For the purpose of this section: (1) "Asbestos" includes chrysotile, amosite, crocidolite, tremolite, anthophyllite, and actinolite.
bestos fibers longer

(2) "Asbestos fibers" means asbestos fibers longer than 5 micrometers.

(b) *Permissible exposure to airborne concentrations of asbestos fibers—(1) Standard effective July 7, 1972.* The 8-hour time-weighted average airborne concentrations of asbestos fibers to which any employee may be exposed shall not exceed five fibers, longer than 5 micrometers, per cubic centimeter of air, as determined by the method prescribed in paragraph (e) of this section.

(2) *Standard effective July 1, 1976.* The 8-hour time-weighted average airborne concentrations of asbestos fibers to which any employee may be exposed shall not exceed two fibers, longer than 5 micrometers, per cubic centimeter of air, as determined by the method prescribed in paragraph (e) of this section.

(3) *Ceiling concentration.* No employee shall be exposed at any time to airborne concentrations of asbestos fibers in excess of 10 fibers, longer than 5 micrometers, per cubic centimeter of air, as determined by the method prescribed in paragraph (e) of this section.

(c) *Methods of compliance—(1) Engineering methods. (i) Engineering controls.* Engineering controls, such as, but not limited to, isolation, enclosure, exhaust ventilation, and dust collection, shall be used to meet the exposure limits prescribed in paragraph (b) of this section.

(ii) *Local exhaust ventilation.* (*a*) Local exhaust ventilation and dust collection systems shall be designed, constructed, installed, and maintained in accordance with the American National Standard Fundamentals Governing the Design and Operation of Local Exhaust Systems, ANSI Z9.2-1971, which is incorporated by reference herein.

(*b*) See § 1910.6 concerning the availability of ANSI Z9.2-1971, and the maintenance of a historic file in connection therewith. The address of the American National Standards Institute is given in § 1910.100.

(iii) *Particular tools.* All hand-operated and power-operated tools which may produce or release asbestos fibers in excess of the exposure limits prescribed in paragraph (b) of this section, such as, but not limited to, saws, scorers, abrasive wheels, and drills, shall be provided with local exhaust ventilation systems, in accordance with subdivision (ii) of this subparagraph.

(2) *Work practices*—(i) *Wet methods.* Insofar as practicable, asbestos shall be handled, mixed, applied, removed, cut, scored, or otherwise worked in a wet state sufficient to prevent the emission of airborne fibers in excess of the exposure limits prescribed in paragraph (b) of this section, unless the usefulness of the product would be diminished thereby.

(ii) *Particular products and operations.* No asbestos cement, mortar, coating, grout, plaster, or similar material containing asbestos shall be removed from bags, cartons, or other containers in which they are shipped, without being either wetted, or enclosed, or ventilated so as to prevent effectively the release of airborne asbestos fibers in excess of the limits prescribed in paragraph (b) of this section.

(iii) *Spraying, demolition, or removal.* Employees engaged in the spraying of asbestos, the removal, or demolition of pipes, structures, or equipment covered or insulated with asbestos, and in the removal or demolition of asbestos insulation or coverings shall be provided with respiratory equipment in accordance with paragraph (d) (2) (iii) of this section and with special clothing in accordance with paragraph (d) (3) of this section.

(d) *Personal protective equipment*—(1) Compliance with the exposure limits prescribed by paragraph (b) of this section may not be achieved by the use of respirators or shift rotation of employees, except:

(i) During the time period necessary to install the engineering controls and to institute the work practices required by paragraph (c) of this section;

(ii) In work situations in which the methods prescribed in paragraph (c) of this section are either technically not feasible or feasible to an extent insufficient to reduce the airborne concentrations of asbestos fibers below the limits prescribed by paragraph (b) of this section; or

(iii) In emergencies.

(iv) Where both respirators and personnel rotation are allowed by subdivisions (i), (ii), or (iii) of this subparagraph, and both are practicable, personnel rotation shall be preferred and used.

(2) Where a respirator is permitted by subparagraph (1) of this paragraph it shall be selected from among those approved by the Bureau of Mines, Department of the Interior, or the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, under the provision of 30 CFR Part 11 (37 F.R. 6244, Mar. 25, 1972), and shall be used in accordance with subdivisions (i) (ii), and (iv) of this subparagraph.

(i) *Air purifying respirators.* A reusable or single use air purifying respirator, or a respirator described in subdivision (ii) or (iii) of this subparagraph, shall be used to reduce the concentrations of airborne asbestos fibers in the respirator below the exposure limits prescribed in paragraph (b) of this section, when the ceiling or the 8-hour time-weighted average airborne concentrations of asbestos fibers are reasonably expected to exceed no more than 10 times those limits.

(ii) *Powered air purifying respirators.* A full facepiece powered air purifying respirator, or a powered air purifying respirator, or a respirator described in subdivision (iii) of this subparagraph, shall be used to reduce the concentrations of airborne asbestos fibers in the respirator below the exposure limits prescribed in paragraph (b) of this section, when the ceiling or the 3-hour time-weighted average concentrations of asbestos fibers are reasonably expected to exceed 10 times, but not 100 times, those limits.

(iii) *Type "C" supplied-air respirators, continous flow or pressure-demand class.* A type "C" continuous flow or pressure-demand, supplied-air respirator shall be used to reduce the concentrations of airborne asbestos fibers in the respirator below the exposure limits prescribed in paragraph (b) of this section, when the ceiling or the 3-hour time-weighted average airborne concentrations of asbestos fibers are reasonably expected to exceed 100 times those limits.

(iv) *Establishment of a respirator program.* (*a*) The employer shall es-

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SGP 0022033

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tablish a respirator program in accordance with the requirements of the American National Standards Practices for Respiratory Protection, ANSI Z88.2-1969, which is incorporated by reference herein.

(*b*) See § 1910.6 concerning the availability of ANSIZ88.2-969 and the maintenance of an historic file in connection therewith. The address of the American National Standards Institute is given in § 1910.100.

(*c*) No employee shall be assigned to tasks requiring the use of respirators if, based upon his most recent examination, an examining physician determines that the employee will be unable to function normally wearing a respirator, or that the safety or health of the employee or other employees will be impaired by his use of a respirator. Such employee shall be rotated to another job or given the opportunity to transfer to a different position whose duties he is able to perform with the same employer, in the same geographical area and with the same seniority, status, and rate of pay he had just prior to such transfer, if such a different position is available.

(3) Special clothing: The employer shall provide, and require the use of special clothing, such as coveralls or similar whole body clothing, head coverings, gloves, and foot coverings for any employee exposed to airborne concentrations of asbestos fibers, which exceed the ceiling level prescribed in paragraph (b) of this section.

(4) Change rooms: (i) At any fixed place of employment exposed to airborne concentrations of asbestos fibers in excess of the exposure limits prescribed in paragraph (b) of this section, the employer shall provide change rooms for employees working regularly at the place.

(ii) Clothes lockers: The employer shall provide two separate lockers or containers for each employee, so separated or isolated as to prevent contamination of the employee's street clothes from his work clothes.

(iii) Laundering: (*a*) Laundering of asbestos contaminated clothing shall be done so as to prevent the release of airborne asbestos fibers in excess of the exposure limits prescribed in paragraph (b) of this section.

(*b*) Any employer who gives asbestos-contaminated clothing to another person for laundering shall inform such person of the requirement in (*a*) of this subdivision to effectively prevent the release of airborne asbestos fibers in excess of the exposure limits prescribed in paragraph (b) of this Section.

(*c*) Contaminated clothing shall be transported in sealed impermeable bags, or other closed, impermeable containers, and labeled in accordance with paragraph (g) of this section.

(*e*) *Method of measurement.* All determinations of airborne concentrations of asbestos fibers shall be made by the membrane filter method at 400–450 X (magnification) (4 millimeter objective) with phase contrast illumination.

(*f*) *Monitoring*—(1) *Initial determinations.* Within 6 months of the publication of this section, every employer shall cause every place of employment where asbestos fibers are released to be monitored in such a way as to determine whether every employee's exposure to asbestos fibers is below the limits prescribed in paragraph (b) of this section. If the limits are exceeded, the employer shall immediately undertake a compliance program in accordance with paragraph (c) of this section.

(2) *Personal monitoring*—(i) Samples shall be collected from within the breathing zone of the employees, on membrane filters of 0.8 micrometer porosity mounted in an open-face filter holder. Samples shall be taken for the determination of the 8-hour time-weighted average airborne concentrations and of the ceiling concentrations of asbestos fibers.

(ii) Sampling frequency and patterns. After the initial determinations required by subparagraph (1) of this paragraph, samples shall be of such frequency and pattern as to represent with reasonable accuracy the levels of exposure of employees. In no case shall the sampling be done at intervals greater than 6 months for employees whose exposure to asbestos may reasonably be foreseen to exceed the limits prescribed by paragraph (b) of this section.

(3) *Environmental monitoring* — (i) samples shall be collected from areas of a work environment which are representative of the airborne concentrations of asbestos fibers which may reach the breathing zone of employees. Samples shall be collected on a membrane filter of 0.8 micrometer porosity mounted in an open-face filter holder. Samples shall be taken for the determination of the 8-hour time-weighted average airborne concentrations and of the ceiling concentrations of asbestos fibers.

(ii) *Sampling frequency and patterns.* After the initial determinations required by subparagraph (1) of this paragraph, samples shall be of such frequency and pattern as to represent with reasonable accuracy the levels of exposure of the employees. In no case shall sampling be at intervals greater than 6 months for employees whose exposures to asbestos may reasonably be foreseen to exceed the exposure limits prescribed in paragraph (b) of this section.

(4) *Employee observation of monitoring.* Affected employees, or their representatives, shall be given a reasonable opportunity to observe any monitoring required by this paragraph and shall have access to the records thereof.

(g) *Caution signs and labels.* (1) *Caution signs.* (i) *Posting.* Caution signs shall be provided and displayed at each location where airborne concentrations of asbestos fibers may be in excess of the exposure limits prescribed in paragraph (b) of this section. Signs shall be posted at such a distance from such a location so that an employee may read the signs and take necessary protective steps before entering the area marked by the signs. Signs shall be posted at all approaches to areas containing excessive concentrations of airborne asbestos fibers.

(ii) *Sign specifications.* The warning signs required by subdivision (i) of this subparagraph shall conform to the requirements of 20" x 14" vertical format signs specified in § 1910.145 (d) (4), and to this subdivision. The signs shall display the following legend in the lower panel, with letter sizes and styles of a visibility at least equal to that specified in this subdivision.

Legend	*Notation*
Asbestos	1" Sans Serif, Gothic or Block.
Dust Hazard	¾" Sans Serif, Gothic or Block.
Avoid Breathing Dust	¼" Gothic.
Wear Assigned Protective Equipment	¼" Gothic.
Do Not Remain In Area Unless Your Works Requires It	¼" Gothic.
Breathing Asbestos Dust May Be Hazardous To Your Health ...	14 point Gothic.

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Spacing between lines shall be at least equal to the height of the upper of any two lines.

(2) *Caution labels*—(i) *Labeling.* Caution labels shall be affixed to all raw materials, mixtures, scrap, waste, debris, and other products containing asbestos fibers, or to their containers, except that no label is required where asbestos fibers have been modified by a bonding agent, coating, binder, or other material so that during any reasonably foreseeable use, handling, storage, disposal, processing, or transportation, no airborne concentrations of asbestos fibers in excess of the exposure limits prescribed in paragraph (b) of this section will be released.

(ii) *Label specifications.* The caution labels required by subdivision (i) of this subparagraph shall be printed in letters of sufficient size and contrast as to be readily visible and legible. The label shall state:

CAUTION
CONTAINS ASBESTOS FIBERS
AVOID CREATING DUST
BREATHING ASBESTOS DUST MAY
CAUSE SERIOUS BODILY HARM

(h) *Housekeeping*—(1) *Cleaning.* All external surfaces in any place of employment shall be maintained free of accumulations of asbestos fibers if, with their dispersion, there would be an excessive concentration.

(2) *Waste disposal.* Asbestos waste, scrap, debris, bags, containers, equipment, and asbestos-contaminated clothing, consigned for disposal, which may produce in any reasonably foreseeable use, handling, storage, processing, disposal, or transportation airborne concentrations of asbestos fibers in excess of the exposure limits prescribed in paragraph (b) of this section shall be collected and disposed of in sealed impermeable bags, or other closed, impermeable containers.

(i) *Recordkeeping*—(1) *Exposure records.* Every employer shall maintain records of any personal or environmental monitoring required by this section. Records shall be maintained for a period of at least 3 years and shall be made available upon request to the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health, the Director of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, and to authorized representatives of either.

(2) *Employee access.* Every employee and former employee shall have reasonable access to any record required to be maintained by subparagraph (1) of this paragraph, which indicates the employee's own exposure to asbestos fibers.

(3) *Employee notification.* Any employee found to have been exposed at any time to airborne concentrations of asbestos fibers in excess of the limits prescribed in paragraph (b) of this section shall be notified in writing of the exposure as soon as practicable but not later than 5 days of the finding. The employee shall also be timely notified of the corrective action being taken.

(j) *Medical examinations* — (1) *General.* The employer shall provide or make available at his cost, medical examinations relative to exposure to asbestos required by this paragraph.

(2) *Preplacement.* The employer shall provide or make available to each of his employees, within 30 calendar days following his first employment in an occupation exposed to airborne concentrations of asbestos fibers, a comprehensive medical examination, which shall include, as a minimum, a chest roentgenogram (posterior-anterior 14 x 17 inches), a history to elicit symptomatology of respiratory disease, and pulmonary function tests to include forced vital capacity (FVC) and forced expiratory volume at 1 second ($FEV_{1.0}$).

(3) *Annual examinations.* On or before January 31, 1973, and at least annually thereafter, every employer shall provide, or make available, comprehensive medical examinations to each of his employees engaged in occupations exposed to airborne concentrations of asbestos fibers. Such annual examination shall include, as a minimum, a chest roentgenogram (posterior-anterior 14 x 17 inches), a history to elicit symptomatology of respiratory disease, and pulmonary function tests to include forced vital capacity (FVC) and forced expiratory volume at 1 second ($FEV_{1.0}$).

(4) *Termination of employment.* The employer shall provide, or make available, within 30 calendar days before or after the termination of employment of any employee engaged in an occupation exposed to airborne concentrations of asbestos fibers, a comprehensive medical examination which shall include, as a minimum, a chest roentgenogram (posterior-anterior 14 x 17 inches), a history to elicit symptomatology of respiratory disease, and pulmonary function tests to include forced vital capacity (FVC) and forced expiratory volume at 1 second ($FEV_{1.0}$).

(5) *Recent examinations.* No medical examination is required of any employee, if adequate records show that the employee has been examined in accordance with this paragraph within the past 1-year period.

(6) *Medical records*—(i) *Maintenance.* Employers of employees examined pursuant to this paragraph shall cause to be maintained complete and accurate records of all such medical examinations. Records shall be retained by employers for at least 20 years.

(ii) *Access.* The contents of the records of the medical examinations required by this paragraph shall be made available, for inspection and copying, to the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health, the Director of NIOSH, to authorized physicians and medical consultants of either of them, and, upon the request of an employee or former employee, to his physician. Any physician who conducts a medical examination required by this paragraph shall furnish to the employer of the examined employee all the information specifically required by this paragraph, and any other medical information related to occupational exposure to asbestos fibers.

3. A new § 1910.19 is added to Subpart B of Part 1910, reading as follows:

§ 1910.19 Asbestos dust.

Section 1910.93a shall apply to the exposure of every employee to asbestos dust in every employment and place of employment covered by § 1910.12, § 1910.13, § 1910.14, § 1910.15, or § 1910.16, in lieu of any different standard on exposure to asbestos dust which would otherwise be applicable by virtue of any of those sections.

Effective date. Paragraph (b) (2) of § 1910.93a shall become effective July 1, 1976. All other provisions of §§ 1919.93a, 1910.93, and 1910.19 shall become effective July 7, 1972. The current emergency temporary standard remains in effect until July 7, 1972.

(Secs. 6, 8, 84 Stat. 1593, 1598; 29 U.S.C. 655, 657; 29 CFR 1910.4; Secretary of Labor's Order No. 12-71, 36 F.R. 8754)

Signed at Washington, D.C., this 2d day of June 1972.

G. C. GUENTHER,
Assistant Secretary of Labor

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