

FILE NAME: Asbestos Information Association (AIA)

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ASBESTOS INFORMATION ASSOCIATION

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URGENT

Memorandum For: MEMBERS

Subject: Proposed Revision to OSHA Asbestos Standard
(29 CFR 1910.1000)

On September 30, the Secretary of Labor signed a document proposing a revision to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration standard for exposure to asbestos. A copy of this document is rushed to your attention. The document is scheduled for official publication in the Federal Register on Thursday, October 9.

OSHA Proposed Standard Would:

- ... Reduce the permissible exposure limit to a TWA of 0.5 fibers per cubic centimeter (500,000 fibers per cubic meter) and reduce the ceiling limit to 5 fibers per cubic centimeter (5 million fibers per cubic meter).
- ... Add a 15 minute sampling period for determination of the ceiling limit.
- ... Establish additional requirements for regulating areas, employee rosters, hygiene facilities, employee information and training, signs and labels, monitoring and medical surveillance.
- ... Extend the period for retention of monitoring and medical records to 40 years or for the duration of the employees' employment plus 20 years, whichever is longer.
- ... Exclude construction activities from revised standard but would continue coverage of these activities under the existing standard. It is intended that a separate revision would be proposed for the construction industry.



Major issues raised by this proposal and for which public comment is invited:

- ... Whether the permissible limit for an 8-hour time weighted average exposure (TWA) should be lowered to 500,000 fibers per cubic meter (0.5 fiber per cubic centimeter), and if so, would such an exposure provide an adequate margin of safety to protect employees against known and suspected workplace hazards of asbestos.
- ... Whether the permissible ceiling limit should be reduced to 5 million fibers per cubic meter (5 fibers per cubic centimeter) and, if so, would such an exposure provide an adequate margin of safety to protect employees against known and suspected workplace hazards.
- ... Whether the proposed retention period for medical and monitoring records of former employees would be appropriate and adequate.
- ... Whether the information gathering requirements of the proposal would create any administrative and economic burdens on employers, particularly those employing small numbers of employees or having workforces which are highly transient.
- ... Whether the provision for job reassignment on account of medical unsuitability adequately and effectively furthers the purposes of the Act.
- ... Whether compliance with the proposal would be technologically and economically feasible for all affected industries.
- ... What are the projected environmental and inflationary impacts of the proposal.

Inflationary Impact Assessment:

- ... In accordance with Executive Order 11821 and OMB Circular A-107, OSHA intends to prepare a statement which will assess the inflationary impacts of the proposed standard. This statement will be made available to the public at least 30 days prior to a public hearing on the proposal. Written comments and oral testimony on the anticipated economic impact will be welcome.

Effective Date:

- ... The proposal does not contain an anticipated effective date at this time. Following review of the environmental and inflationary impact assessments and the record of the public hearing, if one is held, OSHA will propose a date 20