

ASBESTOS SEMINAR
June 2, 1972

8:45 a.m.	Introduction	
8:50 a.m.	Types and Uses of Asbestos	R. J. Hubiak
9:05 a.m.	Health Effects of Exposure to Asbestos	C. F. Reinhardt, M.D.
9:30 a.m.	Changing Requirements under OSHA	J. F. Morgan
10:00 a.m.	COFFEE BREAK	
10:30 a.m.	Medical Surveillance of Asbestos Workers	M. J. Trochimowicz
11:00 a.m.	Surveillance of Working Environment	R. J. Hubiak
11:45 a.m.	LUNCH	
1:00 p.m.	Means of Dust Control	Com. S. Barboe, USN
1:45 p.m.	Potential Substitution of Asbestos in Insulation	G. E. Lang, III
2:00 p.m.	Discussion of Topics	
3:30 p.m.	Adjournment	

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INTRODUCTION

by

John A. Zapp, Jr.

Let me say a few words about why we're having this particular Conference on Asbestos. If I were to rank these chemicals made and used by Du Pont in order of concern to me, I would not put asbestos at the top of the list. But, it has the spotlight on it at the present time for other reasons. There are enough workers throughout the U.S. who are exposed to asbestos and there are enough cases of occupational disease resulting from this exposure to have caused labor unions and the Federal Government to give this problem of asbestosis, and associated lung cancer, the first, and primary attention, under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970. This attention occurred two ways. First of all, asbestos is the first chemical substance to have been made the subject of an emergency standard. This was on the motion of the labor unions that insisted that the current level of exposure as permitted under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 12 fibers/ml was too high, and therefore, they put pressure on the Department of Labor to set a lower emergency standard. This was set at the current recommended level by the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists at 5 fibers/ml. This number five is not as low as the labor unions would have liked, so that pressure has continued on the Department of Labor to establish a permanent standard lower than 5 fibers/ml. The mechanism for getting at a permanent standard that affects health, is for the Department of Labor to request the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health to prepare a criteria document

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and recommend a standard. So we have another first. This was the first criteria document recommending a permanent standard to be prepared by the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health and to which they have complied with the requests of the Secretary of Labor by issuing a criteria document, entitled Criteria for a Recommended Standard--Occupational Exposure to Asbestos. A criteria document is not a standard. A criteria document simply describes the effects observed at different levels of exposure. Based upon the criteria document however, one can recommend a standard. Criteria documents are descriptive. They describe. Standards are prescriptive. They say what you can do and what you can't do. This particular document contains a recommended standard and the criteria on which that recommended standard is based. However, it should be pointed out that this document itself does not necessarily reflect the final standard that will be adopted by the Department of Labor. And, I might just quote Dr. Marcus Key, Director of the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health, in a talk he gave in February where he said, "Please remember, under the Occupational Safety and Health Act, NIOSH's recommendations are not standards. The Department of Labor will review our recommendations and those of ad hoc review committees and hold public hearings, if necessary, and will promulgate the final standard." Now the public hearings on asbestos have already been held. They lasted about two weeks, and I understand that it accumulated quite a stack of testimony. Now, the next phase of the current phase is the digestion of this testimony by the Department of Labor. Out of that will come their recommendation for a final standard that will be published

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in the Federal Register to take effect on a certain time after publication. We have not yet reached that point. But because this document is out, because it recommends a low standard of 2 fibers/ml, this standard itself has achieved maximum exposure conditions. It has excited more of a discussion and a lot of questions were being asked by people who might have to deal with this problem. As a result of this attention focused on asbestos, plus the intended standard which we don't really know too much about yet, that has caused us to feel that the time was right for another Seminar on Asbestos.

What we're going to try to do today is to give you some of the dimensions of the problem, but again I caution you. The final standard has not yet been promulgated so don't go back and say you have to do this right away. It may well be that the Department of Labor will not adopt all the recommendations of NIOSH after they have considered all of the testimony before them, all comments of experts, professional societies, industry, and labor. It may be for political reasons they will adopt it. We don't know. So that part is still an unknown. But, I hope that you will leave here today with a better understanding of some of the reasons for the recommendations of the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health or NIOSH, as you will hear it referred to, and, perhaps a better understanding of what you may have to do when the final standard is adopted.

RJH/nah/jtd
June 28, 1972

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