

FILE NAME: AT&T and other Phone Companies (ATT)

DATE: 1973 and 1974

DOC#: ATT055

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Transite Cable Hole Covers

1478
6/15/74

transite
cable hole covers

W
HOTELS
WORLDWIDE

Callot
ATT # 55

Service
Common Installation Engineering



Western Electric

3800 Golf Road
Rolling Meadows, Ill. 60008
312 956-2000

JUN 05 1973

PLAINTIFF'S
EXHIBIT
SWB-139

MR. W. PFERD, Head
Telephone Buildings Planning Department

Whippany

Re: Transite Cable Hole Covers

File: I.E. 30

This is in reference to a phone conversation on May 10, 1973 between Mr. C. Bendersky of your organization and Mr. A. Skirpstunas of CIE, concerning airborne concentrations of asbestos fibers in Central Offices generated from cutting of transite cable hole covers.

In order to minimize any adverse affects upon the Installer when working with asbestos, installation practices require that the Installer handling asbestos, mineral wool or rock wool wear plastic safety goggles, leather palmed canvas gloves and a respirator to protect the nose and mouth.

The airborne concentration in a Central Office of asbestos fibers generated from the transite cutting process is presently unknown. However, we have been advised that we may be in violation of OSHA, when working with transite cable hole covers in new Central Offices or on additions.

We have requested Western Electric Headquarters to clarify the corporate stand in regard to a periodic physical examination for persons being exposed to airborne asbestos particles. We have also requested them to assist us in evaluating what the airborne asbestos particle concentration level is while the Installer cuts asbestos.

In view of the fact that your organization is actively engaged in testing and evaluation of the present cable hole concept, we feel that this condition has an impact on your studies and requires immediate attention.

CONFIDENTIAL

1973-74
Transite Cable Hole
Covers

ATT # 55

003665

Revised Minutes
Changes Underlined

Minutes of the Bell System Occupational Health Working Group

July 5, 1973

In attendance:

Dr. R. W. Stone, Director of Medical Research - AT&T - Co-Chairman
J. L. Shumaker, Plant Operations Manager - AT&T - Co-Chairman
Dr. R. S. Ayerle, Medical Director - Bell of Pennsylvania
Dr. Dunn, Assistant General Medical Director - Western Electric
Dr. M. Hanley, General Director, Medical and Environmental Health -
Bell Laboratories
Dr. J. Kroll, Assistant Medical Director - AT&T - Long Lines
W. J. Schreiber, Industrial Hygiene Engineer - Bell Laboratories
J. W. Bishop, Plant Operations Director - AT&T
R. J. Callahan, Plant Operations Supervisor-OSHA - AT&T-Secretary

This was the first meeting of the Occupation Health Working group. The purpose was to focus on appropriate future actions in the field of occupational health.

After introductory remarks by Mr. Shumaker and Dr. Stone, a discussion lead to an agreement that there is a need for Bell System coordinated action on Federally proposed occupation health standards. The broad goals of this working group are to:

1. Increase the awareness of known and potential health hazards in the Bell System and bring about a safer and more healthful work environment for its employees.
2. Contribute such information to the Government, or its standard advisory committees, so that standards promulgated represent the best scientific and medical evidence available, marshalled into practical and usable standards.
3. Make recommendations to appropriate system departments regarding conclusions on proposed standards and other health issues that come to the committee's attention.

The conferees concluded that the general responsibility of this group would include:

1. Evaluation of proposed OSHA standards and NIOSH criteria documents related to health for their scientific soundness and potential impact in the Bell System.
2. Preparation of suitable inventories necessary to determine the extent of applicability and impact on the System. (Statistical sampling techniques will be used where appropriate.)
3. Determination of which subjects the committee wishes to make input to the Government on and coordination of this input through AT&T Federal Relations and Legal.



American Telephone and
Telegraph Company
195 Broadway
New York, N. Y. 10007
Phone (212) 393-9800

September 10, 1973

To All Operating Vice Presidents (except Bell Canada):
To All Medical Directors (except Bell Canada):

As many of you are aware, the potential impact of the Occupational Safety and Health Act in the area of occupational health is very great. Recently, a group was organized at AT&T which consists of safety and health specialists from Bell Laboratories, Western Electric, AT&T and some Operating Companies. The group is called the Bell System Occupational Health Working Group and is co-chaired by Dr. R. W. Stone, AT&T Medical Director - Research and J. L. Shumaker, Plant Operations Manager - Safety.

The purpose of the working group is outlined in an attached set of minutes. One of the first outputs of the group, which deals with the subject of noise, is also attached for your review. This working group is now evaluating the NIOSH criteria documents concerning heat stress and carbon monoxide and will soon be looking at other important health issues. If your Company has any input you wish to make to this group, please send your correspondence either through the Safety Group or through Medical, as appropriate.

J. H. Hunt
J. H. Hunt

Assistant Vice President - Plant

M. B. Bond

M. B. Bond, M.D.
Corporate Medical Director

Attachments

c.c.: To All OSHA Coordinators

JAN 9 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

Re: Status Report - Airborne Asbestos Dust Particles Produced by Cutting
Transite Cable Hole Covers & CIE's Activity with BTL Regarding the
Reevaluation of the Cable Hole File: IE 600.4

Airborne Asbestos Fiber Produced by Cutting Transite Cable Hole Covers:

In June 1973, the Personnel and Labor Relations Organization of 222 Broadway, N.Y., requested CIE to assist them in air sampling field trial of asbestos dust produced from cutting transite cable hole covers in central offices.

This sampling was to determine if the airborne fiber concentration exceeded the permissible OSHA levels as covered under T.H.H.P. , (Target Health & Hazards Program).

On October 29, 1973, a field trial in Columbus, Ohio was arranged to obtain samples of asbestos particle size and concentration for all standard conditions (tools, etc.) that the Installer is exposed to when cutting transite (asbestos cement) cable hole covers. The sample collecting was performed by Mr. J. E. Dennison and Mr. R. Menichelli from the Engineering Research Center, Princeton, N.J. Also present at this trial were Mr. F. X. Worden, Corporate Hygiene Coordinator, and Mr. A. Skirpstunas of CIE.

Per phone conversation between Mr. F. X. Worden and Mr. A. Skirpstunas on December 27, 1973, the following subjects of importance were brought to light.

- 1) Test results obtained by Engineering Research Center at Princeton indicate that in certain instances the airborne fiber count was in excess of the OSHA requirement. A full report is being prepared.
- 2) Nicollete Co. in Pa. which is the supplier of transite for W.E., is under investigation by the State Hygiene Commission as possible air poluter because of large piles of asbestos being stored in the open.
- 3) Further investigation revealed that Nicollete Co. is constantly cutting down the number of employees. Presently, they are employing only 100 people.
- 4) In December 1973, Hawthorne Mfg. requested AT&T to replace transite with a different material, in order to meet OSHA requirements in manufacturing.
- 5) Mr. F. X. Worden was asked to discuss this problem with AT&T and arrange a meeting between AT&T, BTL and CIE to arrive at a solution for an immediate change-over in cable hole cover material.

REDACTED

DHWG minutes

Occupational Health Working Group Minutes

March 8, 1974

In attendance:

Dr. Stone, AT&T, Co-chairman
J. L. Shumaker, AT&T, Co-Chairman
Dr. Hanley, Bell Telephone Laboratories
G. Wilkening, Bell Telephone Laboratories
J. Crimp, AT&T
F. Warden, Western Electric
R. Callahan, AT&T, Secretary

Future meetings:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Discussion Leader</u>
April 17	'195' Rm. 1923	9:30 a.m.	Asbestos	G. Wilkening, J. Crimp

Asbestos

Historically, there have been a small number of situations where Bell System companies have used products that contained asbestos. These situations involve asbestos spray on building steel (discontinued in recent years), asbestos as insulation on building pipes, asbestos cable opening covers between floors of central offices, and central office power backboards.

It is the initial opinion of the group that we should attempt to find substitutes for all uses of asbestos that create any concentrations of airborne asbestos fibers. In order to evaluate this subject more completely, Mr. Wilkening and Mr. Crimp will prepare a paper on asbestos for the group's preview on April 17, 1974. Consideration will be given in that meeting to communicating our views on this subject to Engineering, Plant, and Medical in the Operating Companies.

Transite Cable Hole Cover
Plates - Case 20233-3

AS
Carpenter



Bell Laboratories

Whippany Road
Whippany, New Jersey 07981
Phone (201) 385-3000

MAR 21 RECD
March 18, 1974

Mr. J. Glowacki
Assistant Manager
Common Installation Engineering and Services
WE - Rolling Meadows

Re: Letter of June 5, 1973, concerning use of transite cable
hole covers.

The health problems associated with the generation of asbestos particles in the field use of transite cable hole cover plates are fully understood by the Buildings and Power Laboratory. My department has completed a test program evaluating the fire resistance of cable holes packed with KS-5048 bags and is nearing completion of a similar evaluation program on the cable hole closure filled to 25 percent by volume with communication cable. A report is currently being issued on the first program and the report on the second group of tests will be issued shortly thereafter.

Based on the results from these two programs, it is our opinion that a steel cover plate, comparable to the present ceiling plate, should be used as an interim measure to replace the transite cover plate. It should be cut and handled identically to the ceiling plate. Several alternative materials are being considered for possible future use but will require test evaluation to determine their compatibility with closure design requirements. We shall keep you informed as to progress in this area.

R. J. Finnerty
for W. Pford
Head
Telephone Building
Planning Department

WH-2431-C5-bfg

Copy to
Messrs. R. J. Finnerty - AT&T - 195 Broadway

R. M. Riley
J. Simpson
R. J. Shrabal
C. H. F. Spring

CONFIDENTIAL

003664

SWB-00007344

Occupational Health Working Group Minutes

May 23, 1974

In attendance:

R. J. Callahan, AT&T Customer Facilities
G. Crimp, AT&T Engineering
Dr. Dunn, Western Electric
Dr. McCahan, Long Lines
Dr. Stone, AT&T Medical
G. M. Wilkening, Bell Tel. Labs

Future meeting:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Discussion Leader</u>
July 9	'195' Rm. 1923	9:30 a.m.	Asbestos	Dr. Dunn, G. Wilkening
			Funding Report	G. Crimp
			Surveys for	Dr. Stone, R. J. Callahan,
			1974	G. Wilkening
			Noise	G. Wilkening, Dr. Dunn

Note: The June 25 meeting was cancelled due to scheduling problems.

Agenda - May 23, 1974

The agenda for the May 23 meeting is listed as Attachment 1.

Dr. McCahan discussed a recent chemical industry seminar that reported that manufacturers of VC using the latest technology available could not run their plants at a level lower than 15 ppm VC exposure. They predicted that if the 1 ppm proposed standard goes into effect, there would be extensive layoffs in their industry.

As a result of a letter we sent to WE-PPE asking to survey catalogue products for use of VC as a propellant, it was learned that purchases of B insulation spray did contain VC as a propellant until January, 1974. A technical evaluation of the spray and the OSHA emergency standards is incorporated in Attachment 2. Effective 5/29/74 all B Insulation Spray containing VC was recalled. (Recall TWX is Attachment 3).

- 3 -


R. J. Callahan
Secretary

Attachments

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH WORKING GROUP MINUTES

JULY 9, 1974

In Attendance:

Dr. Bisgeier, N. J. Bell - Medical
R. J. Callahan, AT&T - Customer Facilities,
G. Crimp, AT&T - Engineering
Dr. Dunn, W.E. - Medical
Dr. Hanley, Bell Labs. - Medical
Dr. McChan, Long Lines - Medical
Dr. Stone, AT&T - Medical (Co-Chairman)
G. Wilkening, Bell Labs

Future Meeting:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Discussion Leader</u>
Sept. 12, 1974	'195' Room 1923	9:30 A.M.	Noise Sulfuric Acid Asbestos V.C. Funding Update Surveys	Wilkening, Dr. Dunn Worden, Schriebeis Dr. Dunn, Callahan Dr. Dunn, Wilkening Crimp, Dr. Stone Dr. Stone, Scanlan

Funding

Mr. Crimp reported that he expects the letter requesting funds for Occupational Health Surveys to be ready for Mr. Baird's review by the end of August.

Noise

The Working Group agreed to take the following three steps in preparation for the proposal of a new noise standard:

1. The Bell Labs (Environmental Safety and Health Department) will review all existing noise study data and the Companies responses to the proposed noise standard. This review is intended to complement Step 2.
2. After the Labs reviews existing noise data, they will prepare (with AT&T help) a list of typical situations in Bell System operations that may be impacted by the proposed noise standard. After developing this list the Labs will conduct a representative survey in the Operating Companies of these potential noisy environments.

This survey will be made available to all Companies to reduce the number of measurements that ultimately will be required. The list will also be utilized to determine which situation requires engineering or administrative controls or personal protective equipment.

TAY0000001

Health Standard Surveys

The OHWG has agreed to recommend that at least two Occupational Health Surveys be conducted during 1974.

Noise
Carbon Monoxide

The form of this recommendation will be proposed after the funding question is settled.

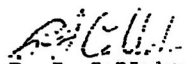
Vinyl Chloride (VC)

A TWX (Attachment No. 1) was issued July 8, 1974 recalling Touch-up Spray Enamel that contains VC as a propellant.

Mr. Wilkening will begin the testing of Bell System fabricated PVC product to determine any VC level emitted around the first of August. This testing will be done in Operating Company garages, trucks, supply centers, distribution centers, central offices, and cable vaults. (See attachment #2).

The Bell Labs has prepared a paper on the lack of a substitute for PVC in cable and wire production. This paper (attachment #3) will be submitted to OSHA prior to August 23, 1974 when the record on VC hearings will be closed. Attachment No. 4 is a copy of a Bell Labs bibliography on VC Operating Company OHWG.

It was agreed that our working group would not request the Companies to form OHWG until after the funding question was settled.


R. J. Callahan
Secretary

Attachments

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