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DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Letter to Rogers Corp RE Standards for Airborne Emissions of Asbestos Fiber

June 30, 1971

Mr. Carl L. Welshman
Senior Buyer
Rogers Corporation
Rogers, Connecticut 06263

Dear Mr. Welshman:

Your letter of May 18, 1971 to our Mr. Anthony Boisclair has been referred to me for reply.

Presently, there are no standards applying specifically to airborne emissions of asbestos fiber other than those that apply to discharge of particulate matter in general. The office of Air Pollution Control in the Environmental Protection Agency of the Federal Government presently is working on emission standards for asbestos-using manufacturing plants. It is expected that these standards will be published late September 1971. It is highly probable that in order to conform to these standards, process emissions of asbestos fiber to atmosphere will require high efficiency fabric bag filter-type dust collectors for control.

Relative to in-plant working conditions, the new Occupational Safety and Health Bill will require that the airborne levels of asbestos fiber be below the established Threshold Limit Value. Threshold Limit Values refer to airborne concentrations of substances and represent conditions under which it is believed that nearly all workers may be repeatedly exposed, day after day, without adverse effect.

The present Threshold Limit Value for asbestos fiber has been established under the Walsh-Healey Public Contracts Act at 12 fibers per milliliter greater than 5 microns in length, or 2 million particles per cubic foot, depending upon the measurement technique used. It is expected that shortly the Federal Government will reduce the Threshold Limit Value to 5 fibers per milliliter and will delete any reference to particulate count.

[redacted]

An industrial hygiene survey using proper measurement techniques is necessary to determine if the various workplaces in your concern comply with standards. If you do not have the capabilities of performing the survey yourself, our Industrial Hygiene Engineering Services Department would be very glad to perform this survey for you. I enclose a brochure describing the activities of this group.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Very truly yours,

Edmund M. Fenner

Edmund M. Fenner, Director
Environmental Control

EMF/ems

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