



E. I. DU PONT DE NEMOURS & COMPANY
WILMINGTON, DELAWARE 19898

CC: G. F. Hickey - ESD
R. S. Pease - ESD
IC 13 - OEC

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT
LOUVIERS BUILDING

December 12, 1979

L. F. PERCIVAL
PLASTIC PRODUCTS AND RESINS
WILMINGTON

PLASTIC PRODUCTS AND RESINS - WILMINGTON
OCCUPATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL GROUP
GASKETS AND PACKING MATERIALS CONTAINING ASBESTOS

At your request, I have compiled information on gaskets commonly used and their composition (Table I). I have also included information on packing materials and their composition (Table II). Most of the information was provided to me by G. F. Hickey (ESD Consultant).

Specific work practices should be followed to minimize exposures when handling asbestos materials. These practices include but are not limited to:

- Use knife or punch press for cutting gaskets. Avoid sawing, grinding, or other dust-generating processes. As required by OSHA, any tools (hand-or power-operated) which may produce airborne fibers in excess of permissible exposure limits must be provided with a dust collection system.
- Vacuum the area immediately after the cutting operation with equipment previously recommended (my letter of December 3). Above all else, use of compressed air for cleanup or dry sweeping is prohibited.
- For gasket cutting or any other operations where airborne asbestos concentrations may exceed ambient air concentrations, it is advised that monitoring be performed.
- Gaskets which are to be discarded should be placed in impermeable bags and be disposed of following asbestos waste disposal procedures.

720

Dm 84

DUP 0905677

DU 026846

Page 2
December 12, 1979
L. F. Percival

- Special cases - it is recommended that when gaskets used for supplying breathing air systems are to be replaced under the regular maintenance schedule any compressed asbestos gaskets be replaced with non-asbestos substitutes.

It has also been observed by G. F. Hickey that "P-gaskets" in drying oven doors may generate airborne asbestos fibers due to wearing of gaskets when the oven doors are frequently opened and closed. Air sampling would be necessary to evaluate this.

Please call me if I can be of any further assistance.

ENGINEERING SERVICE DIVISION
Occupational Environmental Control Group

D. Meyer

D. Meyer
Engineer - Industrial Hygiene

DM:sg
Attachments

DUF 0905678

Dm 85

DU 026847