



DOW CHEMICAL U.S.A.



MICHIGAN DIVISION
September 11, 1984

MIDLAND, MICHIGAN 48640

MAJOR MANAGERS
SECTION MANAGERS
SUPERINTENDENTS

ASBESTOS INFORMATION UPDATE

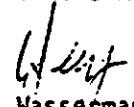
Although the Michigan Division has not purchased or used insulation containing asbestos since the early 1970s, certain older insulations including Careytemp 1500 may contain up to 6% asbestos. More recent forms of insulation (including Careytemp), do not contain asbestos; however, these are often times indistinguishable from asbestos-types without aid of qualified analytical techniques. In addition, other materials (for example: insulations, transite sidings, some roofing materials, piping) may contain varying quantities of asbestos in their compositions.

To re-emphasize potential hazards and to ensure that employees, both at work and at home, are not exposed unknowingly to asbestos, please communicate the information in the attachment to all of your employees.

Some of our employees are involved in removal of minor quantities of insulation, demolition activities, maintenance and trouble shooting activities which may involve handling of materials which contain asbestos. For this purpose, you should communicate the attached information to all employees on your personnel roster as soon as practical (for instance, at your next safety meeting).

If you have any questions concerning this information, or concerning safety standards and environmental standards pertaining to asbestos, please call your Industrial Hygienist.

Thanks for your help in ensuring the continuing health and safety of all of us in the Michigan Division.


G. L. Wasserman
Manager
Industrial Hygiene Services
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Enc.

SRM

AN OPERATING UNIT OF THE DOW CHEMICAL COMPANY

DOW 03830

STN 195529

HANDLING OF ASBESTOS CONTAINING MATERIALS

1. WHAT IS ASBESTOS?

A CRYSTALLINE FORM OF IMPURE MAGNESIUM SILICATE MINERALS IN THE FORM OF FIBERS. IT CAN BE ANY COLOR. MATERIALS MAY CONTAIN A WHOLE RANGE OF ASBESTOS CONCENTRATIONS --- UP TO 100%.

2. WHERE CAN ASBESTOS BE FOUND?

ASBESTOS HAS BEEN USED IN INSULATING MATERIALS, AS A BINDER MATERIAL, GASKETS, ROOFING, FLOOR TILES, WALL BOARD (TRANSITE), PIPING, CEILING TILES, BRAKE LININGS, AND MANY OTHER APPLICATIONS. THE MOST COMMON DIVISION APPLICATIONS INCLUDE INSULATIONS AND TRANSITE SIDINGS, AMONG OTHERS.

3. HOW IS ASBESTOS IDENTIFIED?

SINCE ACCURATE VISUAL IDENTIFICATION OF ASBESTOS IN MATERIALS IS NOT DONE EASILY, IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT IDENTIFICATION BE DONE PRIOR TO HANDLING POTENTIAL ASBESTOS-CONTAINING MATERIALS. CHEMICAL OR PHYSICAL TESTS THROUGH MICHIGAN DIVISION INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE SERVICES OR MAS&TL ANALYTICAL LABORATORIES (1602 BUILDING) ARE REQUIRED FOR ASSURANCE OF ACCURATE DETERMINATION.

4. HOW IS ASBESTOS TO BE HANDLED?

THE PROCEDURES FOR THE SAFE REMOVAL AND/OR DISPOSAL OF ASBESTOS-CONTAINING MATERIALS ARE FOUND IN SAFETY STANDARD S-140 AND ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARD E-500. PROCEDURES INCLUDE THOROUGHLY WETTING THE MATERIAL TO MINIMIZE DUST, THE USE OF APPROPRIATE RESPIRATORY PROTECTION, POSTING OF APPROPRIATE SIGNS AND BARRICADING OF WORK AREA, AND DISPOSAL OF MATERIAL TO LANDFILL IN AN IMPERMEABLE CONTAINER (I.E., TIED, LABELLED PLASTIC BAGS).