



of The City University
of New York

INSULATION-HYGIENE PROGRESS REPORTS

FROM THE INSULATION INDUSTRY HYGIENE RESEARCH PROGRAM

Irving J. Selikoff, M.D., Program Director

Vol. 7 No. 2 • Summer 1975

PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT

K-1209

Identification System for Adhesives-Solvents

It is now possible to report that progress is being made on the development of an identification system for hazardous materials, including adhesive cement, sealants, and similar products used in applying insulation materials.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration has an advisory committee which has developed the basic principles of an identification system. This committee, under the direction of Roy Resnick, has met with Roy Steinsurth, Administrator of the Insulators' Health Hazards Program, and Duncan A. Holaday, of the Mount Sinai School of Medicine, to review the special problems associated with the use of adhesives in the insulation industry.

Hazards Identified

The OSHA committee has decided on the basic principles of an identification system which will be applicable to a variety of industrial products. Signal words, such as "Danger," "Caution," and "Warning" will be used to show degree of hazard. The principal types of hazards will be identified by words such as "Flammable," or "Health Hazard" and signs indicating additional information needed for protection will also be required.

Some identification of the principal component will also be given. Particularly hazardous substances, such as wood alcohol, benzene, xylene, and toluene will be required to be named if they compose more than stated percentages of the product. Altogether, this could mean that labels on industrial products would be as informative as those now required on products intended for household use.

This would indeed be an improvement over the present situation. *Continued on page 3*

Inadequate change and shower facilities can lead to extensive amounts of asbestos and other dusts being brought home to contaminate workers' households.

Here, the only change facilities on this construction site is an open trailer.

Asbestos Disease Can Spread to Workers' Families

A widening spectrum of asbestos disease has been found by Dr. Henry Anderson and other scientists of the Mount Sinai School of Medicine. In a study just completed of 326 family contacts of former asbestos factory workers, it has been found that 35% had X-ray abnormalities characteristic of asbestos exposure. These data were presented by Dr. Anderson on March 24th to the Conference on Occupational Carcinogenesis held at the New York Academy of Sciences.

The family members potentially affected included all in the household: it was not simply the wife of the worker, who would shake dust from her husband's clothes before washing them. Affected were children, brothers, and sisters, as well as wives. It would appear that the dust had been present throughout the household, brought

home on the clothes of the factory workers.

The workers were employed at a factory that manufactured amosite insulation material, often for use in Naval ships, but also widely used in power plants and industrial insulation. It operated from 1941 through 1954. Many of the workers whose families later developed signs of asbestos exposure were employed for relatively short periods of time.

The dust exposures to the family members, however, could have been longer. Asbestos, once in the house, is difficult to remove, and exposures could continue long after cessation of the husband's or father's employment. In other studies by Mount Sinai research workers, asbestos dust has been found still present in households of *continued on page 4*

Conference Held on Occupational Cancer

In the recently concluded New York Academy of Sciences Conference on Occupational Carcinogenesis, a variety of research studies were presented concerning the health of asbestos workers. Of prime importance was the presentation on the presence of asbestos disease in the family members of workers discussed in the lead article of this issue.

Asbestos-Like Exposure Studied

Among other studies were a report on the morbidity and mortality among hardrock miners exposed to an asbestiform mineral. Here, a study by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health investigated the health of underground metal miners with exposure to a fibrous mineral virtually identical to amosite asbestos, a material used extensively in marine insulation and also formerly in much pipe covering and asbestos block.

In an analysis of 70 deaths, a threefold increase in lung cancer was found. Additionally, a review of chest X-rays showed pulmonary fibrosis to be present in the group of workers, even though the fiber concentrations that were measured in the mine were only 0.24 fibers per milliliter, one-twentieth of the current U.S. Asbestos Standard.

Fibrous Glass Analysis

A second report by scientists from NIOSH also is of interest to insulation workers. David L. Bayliss presented data on deaths among fibrous glass production workers. No unusual mortality was found in the large majority of workers. This was to be expected, as these workers had been exposed predominantly to large diameter fibers which would not be carried into the deeper segments of the lungs.

However, it was suggested that one group of workers, exposed in the past to thinner fibers, could have an increased risk of respiratory cancer. This is of special importance as these small diameter fibers are now often used instead of asbestos in high temperature insulation material.

A paper by Dr. Robert Morgan, of the University of Toronto, related cancer of the larynx with asbestos exposure. This cancer, as lung cancer, is also strongly related to cigarette smoking. Similar data have been found among insulation workers, where a threefold increase in laryngeal cancer has been found in research of Dr. Irving J. Selikoff of the Mount Sinai School of Medicine.

Participants at the conference not only considered causes of occupational cancer, but some also offered suggestions for medical surveillance and treatment. Several researchers discussed the usefulness of sputum cytology, in which cells coughed up from the lung are screened for indications of possible cancer.

More Effective Surgery Possible

Studies of former asbestos workers and of uranium miners suggest that lung cancer can be detected in its very early stages, offering the hope for more effective surgery. Needless to say, however, the best prevention for asbestos cancer is to not breathe the fibers in the first place.

Finally, a review of the suitability of the current U.S. Asbestos Standard was presented by Dr. William Nicholson of the Insulation Hygiene Research Program. In his presentation, he discussed the factors that limited the current standard's effectiveness for protecting asbestos workers and urged that as technology is developed, it be immediately implemented in the asbestos industry to reduce asbestos exposure to the lowest feasible level, as rapidly as possible.

The conference marked the two hundredth anniversary of the first research paper published on occupational carcinogenesis, that by Percivall Port on scrotal cancer in chimney sweeps. In his opening remarks, the conference co-chairman, Dr. Joseph K. Wagoner of NIOSH, decried the slow progress in controlling occupational cancers in modern industry.

Labels Necessary for Hazardous Materials

continued from page 1

rently, many labels give inadequate information, or none at all, on what hazards might be involved or what precautions should be followed.

Procedure Guides Necessary

The advisory committee has very important additional tasks. These include the preparation of use guides and training materials which will describe actions to be taken and procedures to be followed when certain statements appear on the labels.

For example, how should products labeled "Danger—Extremely Flammable" be stored and applied? What action is called for when the words "use only with adequate ventilation" appear on the label?

The Occupational Safety and Health Act places the responsibility on the employer for protecting his employees, but it is obvious that many small employers need assistance in deciding what protective measures are required for various situations. Workmen will also need instructions on how to translate labels into protective action.

No Serious Objections Expected

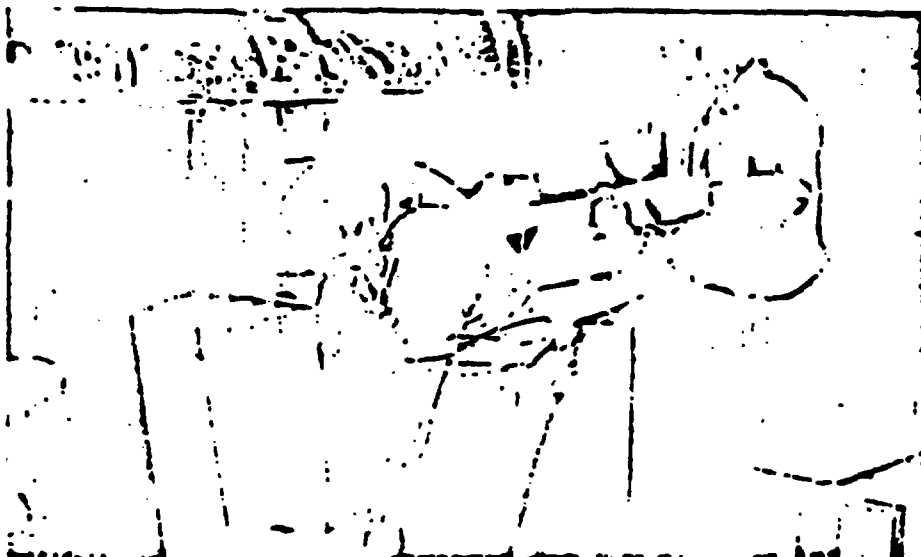
It is probable that the larger manufacturers will not have serious objections to an identification system; indeed, they now comply with similar regulations for household products. Small manufacturers may find preparing the Materials Hazards Data Sheets a large task and also may object to disclosure of the composition of their products.

As the system will probably not call for specific identification of low-hazard compounds but only a statement such as "Petroleum Distillate" or "Alcohols", it seems these objections could be resolved.

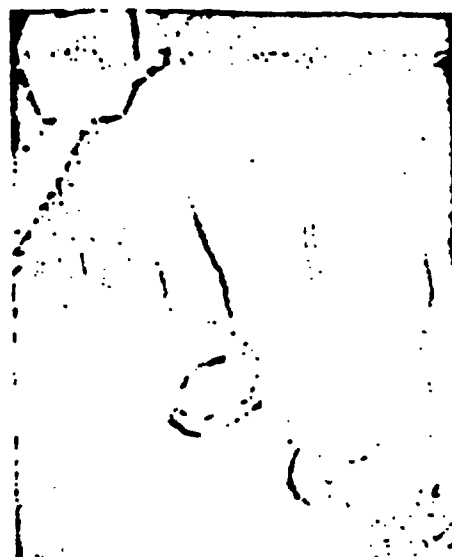
It is anticipated that the advisory committee report will be completed by

continued on page 4

Dust Brought Home Can Affect Family



Two asbestos workers cutting block. Relatively little dust is dispersed into the air . . .



... but much is falling on their clothes and shoes and may be carried home.

Asbestos Disease Can Spread to Workers' Families

continued from page 1

these former factory workers 20 years after closure of the plant.

Mesothelioma, a cancer often linked to asbestos exposure, has also been found among these family members. Of 252 deaths so far identified among household contacts of these former workers, two have been from pleural mesothelioma. Additionally, two other mesothelioma cases have been identified in living members of this group.

These cases have the following histories:

A.C.: The 40-year-old son of a man who worked from 1945 through 1948 in the plant, when the son was 11 years old.

B.P.: The 41-year-old daughter of the plant's chief engineer.

I.Y.: The 42-year-old daughter of a man who had worked in the plant for five years. The family lived near the plant and the daughter used to bring her father lunch every day, when she was 10 years old.

L.N.: A 32-year-old woman who, at the age of 13, lived in the home of her brother-in-law while he worked at the plant for six months. Prior to that, she lived one-half mile from the plant and played frequently in the homes of friends whose fathers worked in the plant.

The results of this study dramatize the need for stringent dust control and cleanup in situations where asbestos is used. It also heightens the importance

of individual worker hygiene and demonstrates the need for adequate changing facilities and showers. Under no circumstances should dusty clothes be brought into the home, even to be put into the washing machine. They should be washed separately, preferably by a commercial industrial laundry service equipped to handle asbestos contaminated work clothes.

For family contacts who suspect they have been exposed to considerable household contamination, medical surveillance is in order. The family physician should be told the exposure history so that X-ray and chest examinations and subsequent medical problems can be closely monitored for possible symptoms of past asbestos exposure at home.

This current report by Dr. Anderson is only the most recent in a series of scientific publications that show family and environmental asbestos risk. As early as 1960, scientists reported cases of mesothelioma in individuals who had had no prior occupational exposure to asbestos.

Later, mesothelioma cases were reported in individuals whose only identifiable asbestos exposure was associated with their having lived within one-half mile of an asbestos manufacturing facility or in households of asbestos workers. Dr. Anderson's findings show that such problems may turn out to be quite common and that more persons than suspected may be at risk from asbestos exposure, and require appropriate surveillance.

Label Report Available Soon

continued from page 3

June 15, 1975. Following this report, proposed regulations would be prepared, published in the Federal Register, comments received, revised regulations prepared, and hearings held. After the hearings, final regulations would be drawn up and promulgated. The full process could well take a year.

However, when the committee report becomes available, further discussions will be held between representatives of the insulators and OSHA, to determine which of the recommendations can be implemented without waiting for regulations to be promulgated.

This situation is not limited to products used by insulators, but is widespread throughout the construction industry. Members of the International Brotherhood of Painters and Allied Trades, especially, have need of adequate labeling of the products they use.

Progress is being made but much still needs to be done to insure that when regulations are adopted, they will be effective. Here, the Asbestos Workers, Painters, and other affected union members should review the published recommendations to verify that the proposed labeling is adequate for the materials they use and the instructional materials supplied for the use of hazardous materials are clearly written and understandable.

December 17 Meeting Set for California Standards Board

The California Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board will hold a public hearing on new and revised safety orders on December 17 at 10 a.m. in the Water Resources Building auditorium, 1416 9th St., Sacramento. The proposals cover high voltage work, power transmission and distribution, signs and out line lighting, logging and sawmills, culverts and reliever protection carriages, motion picture projection rooms, nitrate film, portable powered and hand tools, pneumatic and powder-actuated tools, punch presses, rubber machines and mills, acetylene generators, generator rooms, fire extinguishers, liquid oxygen, nitrous oxide, gauges, and liquefied hydrogen systems. Copies of the proposed changes are available from the Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board office, 1006 Fourth St., third floor, Sacramento, Calif. 95814. Written comments should be submitted by December 2.

—REVIEW COMMISSION—

Decisions of the Commissioners

Asbestos Medical Exams Required at Any Exposure Level

Employers must furnish medical examinations for all employees engaged in occupations exposed to any airborne concentrations of asbestos fibers, a majority of the Review Commissioners held in affirming three consolidated cases. The employers argued unsuccessfully that the examination requirements should not be triggered until the concentrations met or exceeded the standards' permissible levels. On the contrary, the Judges properly determined that no quantitative limitation is implied in the examination mandate.

The employers maintained that NIOSH intended the examination requirement to be triggered only at a threshold level of exposure. Although the NIOSH recommendation contained a triggering level it was merely advisory and the Secretary chose not to follow it. There is uncertainty among scientific authorities as to exactly what asbestos exposure level is fatal, lending force to the conclusion that the examination requirements were deliberately intended to cover employees exposed to asbestos in any degree at all.

In dissent, Commissioner Robert Moran observed that an estimated three to five million workers are exposed to some extent to asbestos fibers in the building construction and shipyard industries alone. Requiring annual physicals for these millions is "utopian." Because the standards as promulgated differ substantially from those that were originally proposed—where examinations were triggered by exposure in excess of the TWA level—they are invalid, said Moran. Countless employers who read the limitations of the proposed rule would have supposed there was no reason to participate in the rulemaking process because their operations would have been unaffected. Moran concludes that due process requires public scrutiny of the substance of the actual regulation.

Gulf Corporation and United Engineers & Constructors, Inc. will appear in a future report.

—Secs. 101s Were Not "Forms"; "Excavation" Was Not a "Trench"

sioners ruled in *Nelco, Inc.* (§ 20,133), even though a lattice-work steel rods had been erected in the opening which was to be construction of concrete forms. The definition of "excavation" standards provides that "if installed forms or similar structure depth-to-width relationship, an excavation may become a trench the two and one-half foot space between the earth walls and it would have qualified it as a "trench," the excavation stayed an excavation had ruled, because the metal latticework was not yet a ceiling.

The Secretary had alleged alternative violations of the excavation requirements for Nelco's failure to shore or stop. Secretary failed to prove that there was a danger from moving element of proof required by the excavation standard—the \$600 proposed penalty were vacated.

In dissent, Commissioner Timothy Cleary maintained that latticework was not a "form." It was a "similar structure" as used in the excavation definition. The opening was therefore a showing of a danger from moving ground was not required.

General Machine Guarding Standard Not Applicable to Moldin

The Review Commissioners upheld a Judge's action vacating issued to *Polycel Corp.* (§ 20,134) for violation of a machine guarding on grounds that the cited standard was not applicable to the machine which an employee was killed. The Judge had ruled that the operated injection molding machine was a clamp rather than a press and the Secretary failed to show the necessity of guarding the point

In dissent, Commissioner Cleary said that the Judge read too narrowly and ignored the requirement that guarding be that the operator could not get any part of his body in the danger the machine—not just at the actual point of operation.

Decisions of the Review Commission Judges

Letter From OSHA Did Not Excuse Compliance With Ladder

The Secretary was not estopped from enforcing a ladder standard because of a letter written by a former OSHA director of the American Gas Association exempting microwave towers from § 1910.27, a Judge ruled in affirming a citation and \$800 penalty *Francisco Tower Service, Inc.* (§ 20,147).

Francisco had been cited for allowing an employee to climb a ladder without any protection, and the Judge held that it should have friction safety device for use during the climb. He disagreed that would increase rather than decrease hazards.

In its defense, Francisco argued that it was not required to the standard. It said that in a letter to the American Gas Association the then-director of OSHA's Office of Standards, microwave among the types of towers exempted from coverage by § 1910.27 noted that in the absence of a specific standard an employer must use or safeguards to protect workers.

The Judge ruled that the letter did not modify the standard.

—Secs. 101s Were Not "Forms"; "Excavation" Was Not a "Trench"