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ABSTRACTS

A REVIEW OF THE CONTROL OF ASBESTOS PROCESSES IN THE CENTRAL ELECTRICITY GENERATING BOARD

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The Medical Services of the Central Electricity Generating Board became aware of the potential hazard of asbestos amongst laggers in the late 1950's and case searching revealed a number of cases of asbestosis. The appearance of mesothelioma in the mid 1960's emphasised the urgency of the problem. The Board adopted a policy in which every effort was to be made to replace existing lagging material with asbestos free substances.

A programme of research and field trials was mounted aimed at finding satisfactory alternative materials and developing safe methods of working. The latter was achieved by drafting a Code of Practice which was brought into use at selected sites in 1968 to prove its effectiveness and adopted throughout the industry the following year. Since 1969 no asbestos containing lagging materials were used at power stations under construction. All replacement lagging materials at operating power stations have also been free of asbestos since this time. The new materials are marked by colour dyes so that workers can recognise at a glance whether asbestos is present or not.

Monitoring of the atmosphere and regular medical and radiological examination of workers have been instituted and it is believed that the problem has been overcome for new employees.