

it contains fiber, since any dust in sufficient quantity is potentially hazardous.

Two good reference works on designing dust control systems are:

1. American National Standards Institute, ANSI Z9.2-1972.
2. "Industrial Ventilation" by the American Conference of Government Industrial Hygienists.

MEDICAL REQUIREMENTS

Present medical standards require that "the employer shall provide initial and annual comprehensive medical examinations to each of his employees engaged in occupations exposed to air borne concentrations of asbestos fiber."

NIOSH (National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, a Division of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare) has recommended in its criteria for occupational exposure to asbestos, that for the purpose of medical surveillance, "the term exposed to asbestos will be interpreted as referring to time-weighted average exposures above one fiber per cc or peak exposures above five fibers per cc."

The intent of the NIOSH recommendation was to eliminate the need for medical examinations when an employee's exposure was below one-half the TLV.

LABELING

Present standards require that:

"Caution labels shall be affixed to all products containing asbestos fibers, or to their containers, except that no label is required where asbestos fibers have been modified by a bonding agent, coating, binder or other material, so that during any reasonably foreseeable use, no airborne concentrations of asbestos fibers in excess of the prescribed limits will be released."

The required wording of the label is:

CAUTION

Contains Asbestos Fibers
Avoid Creating Dust
Breathing Asbestos Dust May Cause
Serious Bodily Harm

EPA STANDARDS FOR AIRBORNE ASBESTOS EMISSIONS

The Environmental Protection Agency on April 6, 1973, published in the Federal Register national emission standards for three hazardous air pollutants - asbestos, beryllium, and mercury.

The EPA standard for asbestos is unique because it contains no emission standards or numbers. Instead, the regulations are written around "NO VISIBLE EMISSIONS."