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92-00024

RECOMMENDED PRACTICES

FOR FABRICATING HANDLING AND APPLYING ASBESTOS-CEMENT PRODUCTS IN THE BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRIES

Prepared by

HEALTH AND SAFETY COUNCIL
OF THE
ASBESTOS CEMENT PRODUCTS ASSOCIATION

PRODUCED
JUN - 83

MT-008383

HOUSEKEEPING

An organized housekeeping program should be maintained in all areas and on all operations at all times.

A major source of dust is from loose materials, scrap and debris distributed throughout the job area and disintegrated by trampling on, running over, etc. Much of it can be eliminated by exercising simple good housekeeping practices.

Specific standards and practices designed for providing safe, clean and orderly working conditions should be defined.

Efficient supervisory control, planning of systematic cleaning plus day to day follow-up are the basic requirements for environmental control and injury prevention.

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SHIPPING, HANDLING AND STORAGE

Under normal conditions, unit load handling and storage of asbestos-cement products present no environmental problems.

When handling individual pieces of flat and corrugated asbestos-cement sheets, care should be taken when placing one sheet on top of the other to avoid creating dust and breakage.

If breakage of asbestos-cement products occurs, broken pieces of material should be cleaned up and disposed of to avoid disintegration by trampling on, running over, etc.

Handling and storage of bags containing asbestos fiber, cements, etc., present no problem, providing bags are unopened and not broken. Open or broken bags should be repacked, resealed or discarded to prevent dust distribution. Spillage should be cleaned up immediately.

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FABRICATION AND APPLICATION

When moving asbestos-cement products to and from the fabrication site, individual pieces of materials should be handled with care to avoid breakage and dust.

Fabrication of asbestos-cement products involving cutting, drilling, sawing, etc., should be done in a manner that will minimize dust. The use of proper methods, tools and equipment is essential.

When cutting, drilling, sawing, etc. on a repeated basis with power equipment, mechanical dust collecting systems adequately designed to remove dust from the source should be used.

Fabrication of asbestos-cement products in confined spaces require adequate mechanical dust collecting systems designed to collect dust at the source. Where these systems are impracticable, approved respirators should be worn.

Provide waste containers at all fabrication and application areas. Dispose of unusable material. Keep floors and surfaces clean. Vacuum cleaning equipment is recommended to remove dust and small particles. If vacuum equipment is impracticable, wet down waste material before sweeping and shoveling. Respirators should be worn during clean-up operations.

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RESPIRATORY EQUIPMENT

Only U. S. Bureau of Mines approved respiratory equipment is recommended for use. The efficiency and effectiveness of this equipment is dependent upon proper care, cleaning and maintenance. A systematic procedure should be established to insure that this is done.

List of approved respiratory equipment can be obtained from:

American Industrial Hygiene Association
14125 Prevost
Detroit, Michigan 48227

U. S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Mines
Nineteenth and E Streets, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20240

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