

Corporate Safety Bulletin

G A F Corporation

TECH 5 - 72

June 27, 1972

STANDARD FOR EXPOSURE TO ASBESTOS DUST

The permanent standard for asbestos dust has been promulgated effective July 7, 1972. A copy of regulations (P1910.93a) is attached for your information and reference.

The permissible exposure based on an 8-hour average has been retained at 5.0 fibers per cubic centimeter until July 1, 1976. Beyond that date, the permissible level will be reduced to 2 fibers per c.c. Exposure to levels of fiber concentrations up to 10 per c.c. are permitted during the work day.

The table below lists the permissible exposures and time limits to arrive at time weighted averages (TWA) of 5.0 and 2.0 where dust concentrations are variable or intermittent and the exposure is zero for the remainder of the 8-hour shift.

<u>EXPOSURE TIME (HOURS)</u>	<u>MAXIMUM CONCENTRATION FOR TWA OF</u>	
	<u>5 Fibers/cc</u>	<u>2 Fibers/cc</u>
8	5.0	2.0
7	5.7	2.2
6	6.6	2.6
5	8.0	3.2
4	10.0	4.0
3	-	5.3
2	-	8.0
1.6	-	10.0

As can be noted above, in addition to determining concentrations, the time element exposed to the various levels is critical. Therefore, in conjunction with the dust counts, appropriate studies of employees activities will be necessary (where job requirements are not static) to arrive at reasonably accurate average exposures. Since exposures above the 5.0 and 2.0 fiber levels but not to exceed 10.0 fibers/cc are permissible, this provides some measure of flexibility in operating conditions during the work period.

Where exposures exceed allowable concentrations, engineering controls and/or work practices must be initiated to control or minimize concentrations. During the period required to complete engineering controls and institute work practices, in emergency situations or where control is not technically feasible, respirators or shift rotation

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(the latter being preferable) must be utilized to minimize individual exposure.

Under the current permissible levels, reusable or single use Bureau of Mines approved respirators such as the MSA Dustfoe 66 or 77, Welsh 7100, Willson 600A, etc. can be used for ceiling concentrations up to 100 fibers/cc and TWA's of 50 fibers/cc. Above these limits and up to 1,000 fibers/cc and 500 fibers/cc for ceiling and TWA's respectively, full facepiece powered respirators must be used. In this category only one manufacturer has an approved system available, the Rite Whitecap air purifiers. Above these levels, supplied air-respirators are mandatory and are available from a number of manufacturers. In our operations, with the present allowable use limits, the reusable or disposable approved type respirator should satisfy most, if not all, situations encountered.

A physical examination program that includes a 14 x 17 X-ray, pulmonary function tests and appropriate medical history data must be initiated and completed on or before January 31, 1973 for all employees currently exposed to asbestos dust, and within 30 days of employment for all new hires and transferred employees who may be exposed to asbestos. Annual examinations are required thereafter. No limitations on levels of exposure are indicated. Therefore, any employee exposed to any quantity of asbestos must be examined.

In taking the employee's medical history, the physician should include a description of smoking habits, details on past exposure to asbestos or other dusts or presence of pulmonary, cardiovascular and gastrointestinal symptoms.

Terminating employees must also be examined within 30 days of termination. Included in the regulation is a provision that if the examining physician determines that the employee cannot function normally wearing a respirator, that employee must be rotated or given an opportunity to transfer to another position without loss of seniority, status or pay rate. Records of medical examinations must be made available to the employee's physician upon the employee's request, OSHA and NIOSH representatives or their authorized medical consultants.

The following requirements are also mandated where exposure or concentrations exceed the prescribed limits:

1. Issuance and maintenance of coveralls, head coverings, gloves and foot coverings where ceiling limits are exceeded.
2. Change room with a two locker system for employees' work and street clothes when permissible limits are exceeded
3. Label sealed bags of contaminated clothing, launder and warn others who may launder contaminated clothing to

avoid the asbestos hazard.

4. Posting caution signs at locations and to approaches to areas exceeding the dust limits.
5. Affixing of caution labels on materials, scrap, waste and debris that can produce excess concentrations in their handling, use, storage, transport or disposal.
6. Use of sealed impermeable bags or other closed containers for disposal of waste, scrap, and debris if in handling, transport, storage or disposal excess concentrations can be generated.
7. Establish a respirator program in accordance with ANSI Z88.2-1969, Standard Practice for Respiratory Protection. These requirements are contained in Subpart I of the OSHA standards under P1910.134, Respiratory Protection.
8. Notify employees in writing within five (5) days of obtaining monitoring results of those exposed to asbestos over the prescribed limits.

The standard also requires that by December 7, 1972 an initial determination of the employees' exposure must be completed. To accomplish this, Corporate Environmental Engineering will be organizing a comprehensive sampling program and affected plants will be surveyed and/or included in a sampling gathering procedure.

Compliance with most of the requirements of the standard must of necessity be delayed until such time that positive determinations have been made as to exposures. Continued use of approved respirators is strongly suggested, however, where visible dust emissions are evident until subsequent sampling data indicates protection is not needed.

As to the medical portion of the standard, the plant's examining physician should be advised of the Act's specific requirements and arrangements made to comply with the January 31, 1972 deadline for completing initial examinations.

Any questions as to interpretation or requirements of this standard should be directed to our attention. Further bulletins will be issued when clarification is received on several items requiring definition and interpretation.

Attach:

§ 1910.93 Air contaminants.

TABLE G-3—MINERAL DUSTS

Substance	Mppcf	Mg/M ³
Silica:		
Crystalline:		
Quartz (respirable).....	250 ¹	10mg/M ³ =
	%SiO ₂ +3	%SiO ₂ +3
Quartz (total dust).....		50mg/M ³
	%SiO ₂ +2	
Cristobalite: Use $\frac{1}{2}$ the value calculated from the count or mass formulae for quartz.		
Tridymite: Use $\frac{1}{2}$ the value calculated from the formulae for quartz.		
Amorphous, including natural diatomaceous earth.....	20	80mg/M ³
	%SiO ₂	
Silicates (less than 1% crystalline silica):		
Nickel.....	20	
Synthetic.....	20	
Talc.....	20	
Portland cement.....	80	
Graphite (natural).....	15	
Coal dust (respirable fraction less than 6% SiO ₂).....		2.4mg/M ³ or 10mg/M ³
For more than 6% SiO ₂		%SiO ₂ +2
Inert or Nuisance Dust:		
Respirable fraction.....	15	5mg/M ³
Total dust.....	80	15mg/M ³

NOTE: Conversion factors—
 mppcfX35.3=million particles per cubic meter
 = particles per c.c.
¹ Millions of particles per cubic foot of air, based on impinger samplers counted by light-beam techniques.
² The percentage of crystalline silica in the formula is the amount determined from air-borne samples, except in those instances in which other methods have been shown to be applicable.
³ As determined by the membrane filter method at 430 X phase contrast magnification.
⁴ Both concentration and percent quartz for the application of this limit are to be determined from the fraction passing a size-selector with the following characteristics:

Aerodynamic diameter (unit density spheres)	Percent passing selector
2	90
2.5	75
3.0	50
4.0	25
10	0

The measurements under this note refer to the use of an AEC instrument. If the respirable fraction of coal dust is determined with a MRE the figure corresponding to that of 2.4 Mg/M³ in the table for coal dust is 4.8 Mg/M³.

2. A new § 1910.93a is added to Part 1910, reading as follows:

§ 1910.93a Asbestos.

(a) **Definitions.** For the purpose of this section, (1) "Asbestos" includes chrysotile, amosite, crocidolite, tremolite, anthophyllite, and actinolite.

(2) "Asbestos fibers" means asbestos fibers longer than 5 micrometers.

(b) **Permissible exposure to airborne concentrations of asbestos fibers.**—(1) **Standard effective July 7, 1972.** The 8-hour time-weighted average airborne concentrations of asbestos fibers to which any employee may be exposed shall not exceed five fibers, longer than 5 micrometers, per cubic centimeter of air, as determined by the method prescribed in paragraph (e) of this section.

(2) **Standard effective July 1, 1976.** The 8-hour time-weighted average airborne concentrations of asbestos fibers

to which any employee may be exposed shall not exceed two fibers, longer than 5 micrometers, per cubic centimeter of air, as determined by the method prescribed in paragraph (e) of this section.

(3) **Ceiling concentration.** No employee shall be exposed at any time to airborne concentrations of asbestos fibers in excess of 10 fibers, longer than 5 micrometers, per cubic centimeter of air, as determined by the method prescribed in paragraph (e) of this section.

(c) **Methods of compliance.**—(1) **Engineering methods.** (i) **Engineering controls.** Engineering controls, such as, but not limited to, isolation, enclosure, exhaust ventilation, and dust collection, shall be used to meet the exposure limits prescribed in paragraph (b) of this section.

(ii) **Local exhaust ventilation.** (a) Local exhaust ventilation and dust collection systems shall be designed, constructed, installed, and maintained in accordance with the American National Standard Fundamentals Governing the Design and Operation of Local Exhaust Systems, ANSI Z9.2-1971, which is incorporated by reference herein.

(b) See § 1910.6 concerning the availability of ANSI Z9.2-1971, and the maintenance of a historic file in connection therewith. The address of the American National Standards Institute is given in § 1910.100.

(iii) **Particular tools.** All hand-operated and power-operated tools which may produce or release asbestos fibers in excess of the exposure limits prescribed in paragraph (b) of this section, such as, but not limited to, saws, scorers, abrasive wheels, and drills, shall be provided with local exhaust ventilation systems in accordance with subdivision (ii) of this subparagraph.

(2) **Work practices.**—(i) **Wet methods.** Insofar as practicable, asbestos shall be handled, mixed, applied, removed, cut, scored, or otherwise worked in a wet state sufficient to prevent the emission of airborne fibers in excess of the exposure limits prescribed in paragraph (b) of this section, unless the usefulness of the product would be diminished thereby.

(ii) **Particular products and operations.** No asbestos cement, mortar, coating, grout, plaster, or similar material containing asbestos shall be removed from bags, cartons, or other containers in which they are shipped, without being either wetted, or enclosed, or ventilated so as to prevent effectively the release of airborne asbestos fibers in excess of the limits prescribed in paragraph (b) of this section.

(iii) **Spraying, demolition, or removal.** Employees engaged in the spraying of asbestos, the removal, or demolition of pipes, structures, or equipment covered or insulated with asbestos, and in the removal or demolition of asbestos insulation or coverings shall be provided with respiratory equipment in accordance with paragraph (d) (2) (iii) of this section and with special clothing in accordance with paragraph (d) (3) of this section.

(d) **Personal protective equipment.**—(1) Compliance with the exposure limits prescribed by paragraph (b) of this section may not be achieved by the use of respirators or shift rotation of employees, except:

(i) During the time period necessary to install the engineering controls and to institute the work practices required by paragraph (c) of this section;

(ii) In work situations in which the methods prescribed in paragraph (c) of this section are either technically not feasible or feasible to an extent insufficient to reduce the airborne concentrations of asbestos fibers below the limits prescribed by paragraph (b) of this section; or

(iii) In emergencies.

(iv) Where both respirators and personnel rotation are allowed by subdivisions (i), (ii), or (iii) of this subparagraph, and both are practicable, personnel rotation shall be preferred and used.

(2) Where a respirator is permitted by subparagraph (1) of this paragraph, it shall be selected from among those approved by the Bureau of Mines, Department of the Interior, or the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, under the provisions of 30 CFR Part 11 (37 F.R. 6244, Mar. 25, 1972), and shall be used in accordance with subdivisions (i), (ii), (iii), and (iv) of this subparagraph.

(i) **Air purifying respirators.** A reusable or single use air purifying respirator, or a respirator described in subdivision (ii) or (iii) of this subparagraph, shall be used to reduce the concentrations of airborne asbestos fibers in the respirator below the exposure limits prescribed in paragraph (b) of this section, when the ceiling or the 8-hour time-weighted average airborne concentrations of asbestos fibers are reasonably expected to exceed no more than 10 times those limits.

(ii) **Powered air purifying respirators.** A full facepiece powered air purifying respirator, or a powered air purifying respirator, or a respirator described in subdivision (iii) of this subparagraph, shall be used to reduce the concentrations of airborne asbestos fibers in the respirator below the exposure limits prescribed in paragraph (b) of this section, when the ceiling or the 8-hour time-weighted average concentrations of asbestos fibers are reasonably expected to exceed 10 times, but not 100 times, those limits.

(iii) **Type "C" supplied-air respirators, continuous flow or pressure-demand class.** A type "C" continuous flow or pressure-demand, supplied-air respirator shall be used to reduce the concentrations of airborne asbestos fibers in the respirator below the exposure limits prescribed in paragraph (b) of this section, when the ceiling or the 8-hour time-weighted average airborne concentrations of asbestos fibers are reasonably expected to exceed 100 times those limits.

(iv) **Establishment of a respirator program.** (a) The employer shall establish a respirator program in accordance with

the requirements of the American National Standards Practices for Respiratory Protection, ANSI Z88.2-1969, which is incorporated by reference herein.

b. See § 1910.6 concerning the availability of ANSI Z88.2-1969 and the maintenance of an historic file in connection therewith. The address of the American National Standards Institute is given in § 1910.100.

(c) No employee shall be assigned to tasks requiring the use of respirators if, based upon his most recent examination, an examining physician determines that the employee will be unable to function normally wearing a respirator, or that the safety or health of the employee or other employees will be impaired by his use of a respirator. Such employee shall be rotated to another job or given the opportunity to transfer to a different position whose duties he is able to perform with the same employer, in the same geographical area and with the same seniority, status, and rate of pay he had just prior to such transfer, if such a different position is available.

(3) Special clothing: The employer shall provide, and require the use of, special clothing, such as coveralls or similar whole body clothing, head coverings, gloves, and foot coverings for any employee exposed to airborne concentrations of asbestos fibers, which exceed the ceiling level prescribed in paragraph (b) of this section.

(4) Change rooms: (i) At any fixed place of employment exposed to airborne concentrations of asbestos fibers in excess of the exposure limits prescribed in paragraph (b) of this section, the employer shall provide change rooms for employees working regularly at the place.

(ii) Clothes lockers: The employer shall provide two separate lockers or containers for each employee, so separated or isolated as to prevent contamination of the employee's street clothes from his work clothes.

(iii) Laundering: (a) Laundering of asbestos contaminated clothing shall be done so as to prevent the release of airborne asbestos fibers in excess of the exposure limits prescribed in paragraph (b) of this section.

(b) Any employer who gives asbestos-contaminated clothing to another person for laundering shall inform such person of the requirement in (a) of this subdivision to effectively prevent the release of airborne asbestos fibers in excess of the exposure limits prescribed in paragraph (b) of this section.

(c) Contaminated clothing shall be transported in sealed impermeable bags, or other closed, impermeable containers, and labeled in accordance with paragraph (g) of this section.

(e) Method of measurement. All determinations of airborne concentrations of asbestos fibers shall be made by the membrane filter method at 400-450 X (magnification) (4 millimeter objective) with phase contrast illumination.

(f) Monitoring—(1) Initial determinations. Within 6 months of the publication of this section, every employer shall cause every place of employment

where asbestos fibers are released to be monitored in such a way as to determine whether every employee's exposure to asbestos fibers is below the limits prescribed in paragraph (b) of this section. If the limits are exceeded, the employer shall immediately undertake a compliance program in accordance with paragraph (c) of this section.

(2) Personal monitoring—(i) Samples shall be collected from within the breathing zone of the employees, on membrane filters of 0.8 micrometer porosity mounted in an open-face filter holder. Samples shall be taken for the determination of the 8-hour time-weighted average airborne concentrations and of the ceiling concentrations of asbestos fibers.

(ii) Sampling frequency and patterns. After the initial determinations required by subparagraph (1) of this paragraph, samples shall be of such frequency and pattern as to represent with reasonable accuracy the levels of exposure of employees. In no case shall the sampling be done at intervals greater than 6 months for employees whose exposure to asbestos may reasonably be foreseen to exceed the limits prescribed by paragraph (b) of this section.

(3) Environmental monitoring—(i) samples shall be collected from areas of a work environment which are representative of the airborne concentrations of asbestos fibers which may reach the breathing zone of employees. Samples shall be collected on a membrane filter of 0.8 micrometer porosity mounted in an open-face filter holder. Samples shall be taken for the determination of the 8-hour time-weighted average airborne concentrations and of the ceiling concentrations of asbestos fibers.

(ii) Sampling frequency and patterns. After the initial determinations required by subparagraph (1) of this paragraph, samples shall be of such frequency and pattern as to represent with reasonable accuracy the levels of exposure of the employees. In no case shall sampling be at intervals greater than 6 months for employees whose exposures to asbestos may reasonably be foreseen to exceed the exposure limits prescribed in paragraph (b) of this section.

(4) Employee observation of monitoring. Affected employees, or their representatives, shall be given a reasonable opportunity to observe any monitoring required by this paragraph and shall have access to the records thereof.

(g) Caution signs and labels. (1) Caution signs. (i) Posting. Caution signs shall be provided and displayed at each location where airborne concentrations of asbestos fibers may be in excess of the exposure limits prescribed in paragraph (b) of this section. Signs shall be posted at such a distance from such a location so that an employee may read the signs and take necessary protective steps before entering the area marked by the signs. Signs shall be posted at all approaches to areas containing excessive concentrations of airborne asbestos fibers.

(ii) Sign specifications. The warning signs required by subdivision (i) of this

subparagraph shall conform to the requirements of 20" x 14" vertical format signs specified in § 1910.145(d)(4), and to this subdivision. The signs shall display the following legend in the lower panel, with letter sizes and styles of a visibility at least equal to that specified in this subdivision.

Legend	Notation
Asbestos	1" Sans Serif, Gothic or Block.
Dust Hazard	¾" Sans Serif, Gothic or Block.
Avoid Breathing Dust	¾" Gothic.
Wear Assigned Protective Equipment.	¾" Gothic.
Do Not Remain In Area Unless Your Work Requires It.	¾" Gothic.
Breathing Asbestos Dust May Be Hazardous To Your Health.	14 point Gothic.

Spacing between lines shall be at least equal to the height of the upper of any two lines.

(2) Caution labels—(i) Labeling. Caution labels shall be affixed to all raw materials, mixtures, scrap, waste, debris, and other 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, handling, storage, disposal, processing, or transportation, no airborne concentrations of asbestos fibers in excess of the exposure limits prescribed in paragraph (b) of this section will be released.

(ii) Label specifications. The caution labels required by subdivision (i) of this subparagraph shall be printed in letters of sufficient size and contrast as to be readily visible and legible. The label shall state:

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

(h) Housekeeping—(1) Cleaning. All external surfaces in any place of employment shall be maintained free of accumulations of asbestos fibers if, with their dispersion, there would be an excessive concentration.

(2) Waste disposal. Asbestos waste, scrap, debris, bags, containers, equipment, and asbestos-contaminated clothing, consigned for disposal, which may produce in any reasonably foreseeable use, handling, storage, processing, disposal, or transportation airborne concentrations of asbestos fibers in excess of the exposure limits prescribed in paragraph (b) of this section shall be collected and disposed of in sealed impermeable bags, or other closed, impermeable containers.

(i) Recordkeeping—(1) Exposure records. Every employer shall maintain records of any personal or environmental monitoring required by this section. Records shall be maintained for a period of at least 3 years and shall be made available upon request to the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health, the Director of the National

Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, and to authorized representatives of either.

(2) *Employee access.* Every employee and former employee shall have reasonable access to any record required to be maintained by subparagraph (1) of this paragraph, which indicates the employee's own exposure to asbestos fibers.

(3) *Employee notification.* Any employee found to have been exposed at any time to airborne concentrations of asbestos fibers in excess of the limits prescribed in paragraph (b) of this section shall be notified in writing of the exposure as soon as practicable but not later than 5 days of the finding. The employee shall also be timely notified of the corrective action being taken.

(1) *Medical examinations—(1) General.* The employer shall provide or make available at his cost, medical examinations relative to exposure to asbestos required by this paragraph.

(2) *Preplacement.* The employer shall provide or make available to each of his employees, within 30 calendar days following his first employment in an occupation exposed to airborne concentrations of asbestos fibers, a comprehensive medical examination, which shall include, as a minimum, a chest roentgenogram (posterior-anterior 14 x 17 inches), a history to elicit symptomatology of respiratory disease, and pulmonary function tests to include forced vital capacity (FVC) and forced expiratory volume at 1 second (FEV_{1.0}).

(3) *Annual examinations.* On or before January 31, 1973, and at least annually thereafter, every employer shall provide, or make available, comprehensive medical examinations to each of his employees engaged in occupations exposed to airborne concentrations of asbestos fibers. Such annual examination shall include, as a minimum, a chest roentgenogram (posterior-anterior 14 x 17 inches), a history to elicit symptomatology of respiratory disease, and pulmonary function tests to include forced vital capacity (FVC) and forced expiratory volume at 1 second (FEV_{1.0}).

(4) *Termination of employment.* The employer shall provide, or make available, within 30 calendar days before or after the termination of employment of any employee engaged in an occupation exposed to airborne concentrations of asbestos fibers, a comprehensive medical examination which shall include, as a minimum, a chest roentgenogram (posterior-anterior 14 x 17 inches), a history to elicit symptomatology of respiratory disease, and pulmonary function tests to include forced vital capacity (FVC) and forced expiratory volume at 1 second (FEV_{1.0}).

(5) *Recent examinations.* No medical examination is required of any employee, if adequate records show that the employee has been examined in accordance with this paragraph within the past 1-year period.

(6) *Medical records—(1) Maintenance.* Employers of employees examined pursuant to this paragraph shall cause to be maintained complete and accurate records of all such medical examina-

tions. Records shall be retained by employers for at least 20 years.

(2) *Access.* The contents of the records of the medical examinations required by this paragraph shall be made available, for inspection and copying, to the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health, the Director of NIOSH, to authorized physicians and medical consultants of either of them, and, upon the request of an employee or former employee, to his physician. Any physician who conducts a medical examination required by this paragraph shall furnish to the employer of the examined employee all the information specifically required by this paragraph, and any other medical information related to occupational exposure to asbestos fibers.

3. A new § 1910.19 is added to Subpart B of Part 1910, reading as follows:

§ 1910.19 Asbestos dust.

Section 1910.93a shall apply to the exposure of every employee to asbestos dust in every employment and place of employment covered by § 1910.12, § 1910.13, § 1910.14, § 1910.15, or § 1910.16, in lieu of any different standard on exposure to asbestos dust which would otherwise be applicable by virtue of any of those sections.

Effective date. Paragraph (b)(2) of § 1910.93a shall become effective July 1, 1976. All other provisions of §§ 1910.93a, 1910.93, and 1910.19 shall become effective July 7, 1972. The current emergency temporary standard remains in effect until July 7, 1972.

(Secs. 8, 8, 84 Stat. 1593, 1596; 29 U.S.C. 655, 657; 29 CFR 1910.4; Secretary of Labor's Order No. 12-71, 36 F.R. 8764)

Signed at Washington, D.C., this 2d day of June 1972.

G. C. GUENTHER,
Assistant Secretary of Labor.

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