

FILE NAME: ICI

DATE: 1976 Sept 21

DOC#: ICI043

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Meeting Notes-Asbestos Hygiene Committee

Herewith the Stan Silk comments on the BOHS
proceedings of 1976.

71/11 105/1975
HSCD/HSCB/258/76

F.I.9.
Cricklewood

21 September, 1976

An honest man and a good colleague.

B.O.H.S. Asbestos/Hygiene Standard Committee

1. I attended the last meeting of this committee on 13 September, 1976 as an observer. As usual a massive amount of documentation arrived during the week prior to the meeting so it was not possible to circulate it for comment.
2. It was obvious that Dr S. Roach (Secretary) was pressing for a standard to be agreed at that meeting. His proposal was for the standard for chrysotile to be 0.9 fibres/cc (1968 Standard 2 fibres/cc) based on the previous documentation plus a further 7 years extension since 1968. It was based on a straight dose/response linear relationship of 45 fibre years for the first signs of asbestosis i.e. crepitations in 1% of the population.
3. This was, however, challenged by Julian Peto of Oxford University who said that it was based only on employed population and did not take into account the fact that the disease progressed and cases came to light after exposure had ceased. He made the statistical calculation that taking this fact into account the Standard should be of the order of 0.25 - 0.3 fibres/cc (12.5 - 15 fibre years).
4. Dr Roach commented that the industry could not afford such a low standard, but the committee agreed that it was outside their terms of reference to pronounce on this suggestion, and they could only recommend on a standard that was statistically viable.
5. The documentation so far has been based on background asbestos in air sampling as near to the breathing zones of the operators as possible. T.A.C. have now also carried out a lot of personal sampling alongside background monitoring, and are feeding the results into a computer to try and obtain a factor between personal and background sampling. The information could also affect the standard recommended as most air sampling is now of the personal type.
6. It will be many years before confirmation of any effects from long term exposure to low concentrations is evident. In the meantime it will take at least another one meeting of the committee before a new standard is finally recommended.


S.J. SILK