

**Western Electric**

380J Golf Road
Rolling Meadows, Ill. 60008
312 956-3165

J. C. Lake
Manager, ~~Common Installation~~ Installation
~~and Regional Engineering~~
Planning and Development

4-17-1974

MR. G. A. NAVARRO, Manager
Engineering Switching Equipment
and Step-by-Step PECC

Hawthorne Works

Re: Transite Cable Penetration Closures

File: IE 600.3

At a conference held on March 22, 1974 in New York City with representatives from AT&T, BTL, CIE and WECO Medical Director, it was decided that the Bell System approach is to eliminate, wherever possible and practical, the fabrication of transite material under uncontrolled environment within Central Offices. This general policy means the elimination of transite material used in Central Offices as cable penetration closures on floors and walls.

Attached is a letter from BTL giving permission to substitute steel for transite on an interim basis. Since we want to eliminate any possible health hazards to our installers, we are requesting that you take immediate action to substitute steel for transite on all affected piece part drawings. The type of steel used for floor covers should be of similar thickness as the present ceiling covers.

We are recommending that the wall covers be made out of 1/16" thick steel. This matter was discussed with Mr. J. Simpson, BTL on April 8, 1974 and it was stated that the testing of wall closures should be completed by the 1st quarter of 1975.

Att.

Copy w/Att. to:

W. Pfard	- Whippany-BTL
J. Simpson	- Whippany-BTL
R. J. Laux	- Hawthorne Works
R. J. Hiblein	- Hawthorne Works
W. E. Ruhlmann	- Kearny Works
H. F. Palacios	- Kearny Works
A. Montgomery	- Hawthorne Works

CONFIDENTIAL**003663**

Transite Cable Hole Cover
Plates - Case 20233-3

AS
Carpenter



Bell Laboratories

Whippany Road
Whippany, New Jersey 07981
Phone (201) 386-3000

MAR 21 RECD
March 18, 1974

Mr. J. Glowacki
Assistant Manager
Common Installation Engineering and Services
WE - Rolling Meadows

Re: Letter of June 5, 1973, concerning use of transite cable
hole covers.

The health problems associated with the generation of asbestos particles in the field use of transite cable hole cover plates are fully understood by the Buildings and Power Laboratory. My department has completed a test program evaluating the fire resistance of cable holes packed with KS-5048 bags and is nearing completion of a similar evaluation program on the cable hole closure filled to 25 percent by volume with communication cable. A report is currently being issued on the first program and the report on the second group of tests will be issued shortly thereafter.

Based on the results from these two programs, it is our opinion that a steel cover plate, comparable to the present ceiling plate, should be used as an interim measure to replace the transite cover plate. It should be cut and handled identically to the ceiling plate. Several alternative materials are being considered for possible future use but will require test evaluation to determine their compatibility with closure design requirements. We shall keep you informed as to progress in this area.

R. J. Finnerty
W. Pford
Head
Telephone Building
Planning Department

WH-2431-CB-bfg

Copy to
Messrs. R. J. Finnerty - AT&T - 195 Broadway

R. M. Riley
J. Simpson
R. J. Sarabel
C. H. W. Spring

CONFIDENTIAL

000004