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CONSTRUCTION PRODUCTS DIVISION

H. A. B.

Asbestos Fiber Is Banned In General-Use Garments

WASHINGTON, July 29 (UPI)—The Food and Drug Administration has banned the use of asbestos fibers in cloth for garments intended for general use but has exempted barbecue mitts and aprons if they are chemically treated.

Protective equipment used by fire fighters was also exempted.

The agency said Thursday that it had acted because a number of women's coats were made from imported cloth containing asbestos fibers in 1970. An expert committee appointed by the Federal agency determined that asbestos fibers could be toxic if dislodged from the cloth and inhaled.

The mitts and aprons are exempt "if the asbestos fibers are so constructed that they will not become airborne under reasonably foreseeable conditions of use," the agency said. It added that such garments could be made safe by binding the fibers with chemical agents.

The special committee first recommended the ban Feb. 18.

SOURCE: THE NEW YORK TIMES
SUNDAY, JULY 30, 1972