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Johns-Manville

Division Bulletin

Pipe Division

No: Supplement to #4
Effective: October 19, 1981

Cancels: Supplements #4 dated 9-10-80

DATE: October 19, 1981

TO: District Managers, Asst. District Managers, Field Technical Specialists, Field Service Reps., Customer Service Centers, DHQ Pipe Personnel, Sales Representatives

FROM: J. L. Fischer

RE: ASBESTOS CEMENT PIPE/RECOMMENDED WORK PRACTICES

The purpose of this bulletin is to advise that we do not desire to sell our A/C pipe products where the purchaser will knowingly expose his workers to potentially hazardous levels of asbestos dust that can be created by use of non-recommended tools.

Both the AWWA (Manual #16) and the A/C Pipe Producers Association have published booklets on safe work practices to be followed in the installation of A/C pipe. Both of these booklets clearly state that the use of abrasive disc tools should not be used as they can create hazardous levels of asbestos dust. An advisory caution notice is affixed to each length of pipe which states in part "Do not use power saws to cut this pipe". Special short lengths (PUPS) and P.V.C. MOA's have been made available so that the need to cut and machine A/C pipe in the field is greatly reduced. Special tools for cutting and machining A/C pipe in the field which do not produce high levels of asbestos dust have been developed and are readily available. Field demonstrations have been held which have been attended by thousands of contractors, where proper work practices have been demonstrated and where booklets on safe work practies have been passed out to A/C pipe installers. Special mailings have been sent out to all of our customers which have advised the importance of following recommended work practices. These mailings have all included copies of the A/C Pipe Producers "Recommended Work Practices" booklet.

All of the above steps have been taken as we believe it to be essential that all workers who handle A/C pipe in the field are not subjected to hazardous levels of asbestos dust.

Your efforts to inform installers of A/C pipe of the importance of following recommended work practices, and to provide the means to install our pipe where the need to

cut and machine in the field is eliminated or reduced, has had a significant effect in reducing the instances where abrasive disc cutting and beveling equipment is used. Although the amount of usage of abrasive disc tools has been very significantly reduced, it has not been entirely eliminated.

If you observe installations where provisions have not been taken to protect the workers health, the following procedure should be followed:

1. Advise the installer of what you have observed and that by his not complying with recommended work practices he is required by law to "label" the pipe and comply with the full OSHA asbestos regulations.

2. Provide the installer with copies of safe work practice booklets.

3. Document in writing to your supervisor your observation and corrective action you have taken.

This Division Policy is in the best interest of everyone involved, and therefore you are directed to act accordingly.

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