

FILE NAME: Montello (MNT)

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Asbestos in Drilling Muds & OSHA Regs with Attached New Product
Announcement

Montello

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TULSA, OKLAHOMA 74135
(918) 665-1170 / TWX 910-845-2396



012471

October 5, 1979

To: Drilling Contractors
Attention: Safety Department
Subject: Asbestos in drilling muds

OSHA regulations were passed on the use of asbestos in 1972. Since then there has been widespread concern about the use of such products to viscosify drilling muds. This concern has formed around two basic questions. First is the imposing one of how to comply with the regulation itself. Second, and more important however, is the matter of providing the least hazardous work place possible for employees.

We believe there is now an answer to both of these troublesome questions. The enclosed bulletin announces our new dust controlled asbestos product, UNIVIS. With reasonable housekeeping, compliance with applicable OSHA regulations should present no difficulty. By special Program Directive (#300-16) issued October 11, 1978, OSHA has instructed field compliance officers to require medical examinations for workers exposed to asbestos ONLY if the airborne fiber count is in excess of 0.1 fibers/cc on a 7 or 8 hour time weight average (TWA) basis. Analysis of hundreds of field monitoring samples confirm TWA's for UNIVIS of less than one-half the OSHA Directive level.

We welcome the opportunity to answer questions and provide additional information. Please let us hear from you.

Sincerely,

MONTELLO, INC.


Kenneth N. Campbell

KNC/jd

Enc: (1)

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Montello

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- - INTRODUCING - -

012472

U N I V I S

Universal viscosifier for
all aqueous drilling fluids.

Montello is very proud to introduce you to a new product - -
UNIVIS - - and the story behind its development.

More than two years ago, Union Carbide and Montello began a joint effort to develop a truly "dust controlled" asbestos product. Our Super Visbestos has been a leader in performance and economy for many years, and its high density, crushed pellet structure results in very low airborne fiber counts. However, our goal is to offer you a product which will consistently result in counts below 0.1 fibers/cc on a 7 or 8 hour time weighted average (TWA) basis. This level (0.1 fibers/cc) is important from an OSHA compliance standpoint for anyone using asbestos. By a special Program Directive (#300-16) issued October 11, 1978, OSHA has instructed field compliance officers to require medicals for workers exposed to asbestos ONLY if the airborne fiber count is in excess of 0.1 fibers/cc on a 7 or 8 hour TWA. Special clothing, change rooms, lockers, laundering, monitoring and caution signs are also NOT REQUIRED.

After extensive laboratory and field evaluations, documented by equally extensive monitoring, we are pleased to announce UNIVIS. With reasonable care in housekeeping and application, airborne fiber counts should not only be well below 0.1/fibers/cc TWA, but should be virtually indistinguishable from background concentrations.

The key to dust control with UNIVIS is the carefully metered addition of a specially selected oil to a unique 1/8 inch diameter pellet of presheared asbestos. Although more expensive than adding water, our tests indicate that the oil is much more effective and reliable in suppressing dust. This is especially true when accidental spills or bag breakage occur. The oil wet material retains substantially all of its dust control properties up to several weeks. The water treated material on the other hand, begins drying out almost immediately, with a commensurate decline in dust control properties. Since spills and bag breakage are sometimes unavoidable, we decided not to utilize the less dependable protection of water for vital dust control.

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Of course an oil wet material posed packaging problems. The solution was found in the same kind of polypropylene lined multiwall kraft paper bag that has proven to be capable of withstanding diesel oil treated fertilizer packaged for certain explosives applications.

Another question arose as to the possible difficulty of adding UNIVIS to the aqueous drilling fluid. Would the oil coated surface adversely affect dispersion of the asbestos pellets into the system? Lab tests and field tests have revealed that just the reverse is true. By softening and lubricating the surface of the pellets, the oil actually enhances the rate of dispersion.

In order to maximize accuracy in evaluating dust controlled UNIVIS, great care was taken in designing the monitoring program. The first commercially produced truckload of UNIVIS was shipped to north central Texas, where seven rig locations were selected for evaluation. The locations were premonitored for several hours the day before UNIVIS was used to establish an accurate background count. On the days when UNIVIS was used, accuracy of the TWA was assured by virtually continuous monitoring throughout the shift. Nearly 250 filter samples were collected and airborne concentrations were determined in accordance with OSHA requirements.

The resulting report contains 78 pages of detailed analysis. The highest TWA was less than one-half of the OSHA Directive level of 0.1 fibers/cc. Our goal of developing a truly dust controlled asbestos has been realized - - - and not just for standard handling, but for the occasional and unavoidable spill.

A summary of this lengthy report is available at no charge. Please contact us for a copy, or if you want any further information. We'll gladly accept your collect calls at 918-665-1170.

Montello

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