



November 29, 1983

ASBESTOS

In the early 1960's, RMC recognized the inherent breathing problems associated with overexposure to asbestos-containing materials and recommended that exposure be controlled to within the threshold limit value. It was not until the late 1960's that evidence began to mount regarding asbestos and its cancer causing potential. As a result, RMC reiterated its earlier recommendation that asbestos-containing products should be handled with great caution. In 1973, we recommended that the machining of asbestos-containing materials, such as molten metal marinite, transite, and brake shoes, be discontinued and non-asbestos substitutes be introduced wherever possible.

Since January 1983, Corporate Medical and Central Engineering have been conducting an extensive asbestos audit in all operating facilities, in an effort to eliminate any inhalation exposures to asbestos. This goal is being achieved through the use of non-asbestos products for the remaining "current use items" and the adherence to strict work practices when handling "in place" asbestos.

In the meantime (November 1983), OSHA has issued an Emergency Temporary Standard for Occupational Exposure to Asbestos which lowered the permissible exposure level (PEL) from 2.0 fibers per cc to 0.5 fibers per cc, on an 8-hour, time-weighted average basis.

Fortunately, a review of personal monitoring data indicates that, since we have eliminated the machining of asbestos-containing products, the only exposures which would be at or above the new PEL would be those involving the demolition or removal of asbestos-containing material, such as bulk thermal insulation, that is already in place. Work practices have been implemented, however, for the demolition and removal of asbestos-containing products, and inhalation exposures in these situations have been eliminated.

In order to ensure compliance with the new Asbestos Emergency Temporary Standard, it is necessary that all facilities undertake the following measures concerning the demolition of asbestos-containing products:

- 1) Using the Medical/Central Engineering Departments' asbestos audit report, identify all jobs and employees involved in the demolition of asbestos-containing products.

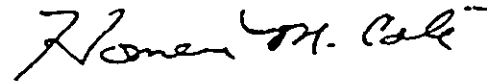
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- 2) Contact the Industrial Hygiene Department, to facilitate the necessary monitoring to determine exposures during the demolition of asbestos.
- 3) With the assistance of the Industrial Hygiene Department, conduct training of all employees who may be exposed to asbestos in excess of the 0.5 fibers/cc PEL.

Attached is a summary of the standard. If you have any questions regarding its application to your operation, please call the Industrial Hygiene Department.



Homer M. Cole
Manager
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Industrial Hygiene

Att.

Distribution: EH-1
RD-01
RD-70
BP-54-Tab 5
MP-15

B.002059

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Occupational Safety and Health
Administration

29 CFR Part 1910

(Docket No. H-0330)

Occupational Exposure to Asbestos

AGENCY: Occupation Safety and Health
Administration (OSHA), Labor.

ACTION: Emergency temporary standard.

PART 1910—[AMENDED]

Section 1910.1001 of Part 1910 of Title 29 of the Code of Federal Regulations is hereby amended by adding a new paragraph (k) reading as follows:

§ 1910.1001 Asbestos.

(k) *Emergency temporary standard effective November 4, 1983.*—(1) *Scope.* This emergency temporary standard is issued pursuant to section 6(c) of the Act and applies to all workplaces where employees may be exposed to asbestos in all industries covered by the Act, including, general industry, construction and maritime. Except to the extent modified by this emergency temporary standard all provisions of § 1910.1001 remain in effect.

(2) *Permissible levels of exposure.* The 8-hour time-weighted average airborne concentration of asbestos fibers to which any employee may be exposed shall not exceed one-half (0.5) fiber, longer than 5 micrometers, per cubic centimeter of air, as determined by the method prescribed in paragraph (e) of this section.

(3) *Methods of compliance with the emergency temporary standard.* Notwithstanding any other requirements of this section, compliance with the reduced exposure limit of 0.5 f/cc shall be achieved by any feasible combination of engineering controls, work practices, and personal protective equipment and devices.

(4) *Employee information and training.*—(i) As soon as possible, but not later than thirty (30) days from the effective date of this emergency temporary standard, the employer shall institute a training program for all employees exposed to airborne concentrations of asbestos in excess of 0.5 f/cc, without regard to the use of respirators and shall assure their participation in the program during the effective period of this emergency temporary standard.

(ii) The employer shall assure that each such employee is informed of the following:

(A) The health effects associated with asbestos exposure;

(B) The relationship between asbestos and smoking in producing lung cancer;

(C) The nature of operations which could result in exposure to asbestos and necessary protective steps to minimize exposure including, as applicable, engineering controls, work practices, respirators, housekeeping and protective clothing;

(D) The purpose, proper use, fitting instructions and limitations of respirators permitted by the standard; and

(E) A review of all the provisions contained in 1910.1001.

(5) *Respiratory protection during the ETS.* Notwithstanding any other requirement of this section, where respirators are used to achieve the permissible exposure limit of 0.5 f/cc they shall be selected according to Table 1.

(6) *Warning signs during the ETS.* In addition to the requirements of paragraph (g)(1) of this section, legible signs warning of the health hazards of asbestos shall be provided and displayed at each location where airborne concentrations of asbestos fibers may exceed 0.5 f/cc.

TABLE 1

Respiratory Protection

For Airborne Concentrations of Asbestos

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Airborne Concentration of Asbestos (TWA)	Required Respirator ¹
Not in excess of 5 f/cc (10 x PEL)	Reusable or single use air purifying respirator
Not in excess of 50 f/cc (100 x PEL)	Full facepiece air purifying respirator, or a powered air purifying respirator
Greater than 50 f/cc	A type "C" continuous flow or pressure demand, supplied air respirator.

¹ Respirators specified for high concentrations may be used at lower concentrations of asbestos.