

ASBESTOS HANDLING REQUIREMENTSINTRODUCTION

Based on the rules and regulations promulgated under OSHA and by the EPA, all handling of asbestos bearing material requires special attention. This guide is intended to provide process and mechanical supervisors with a summary of the actions which must be taken when employees are working in an area where asbestos bearing insulation is being removed and handled.

COVERAGE

As of August 29, 1972, the Purchasing Department was instructed that all future purchases of thermal insulating material must be asbestos free. It is difficult to differentiate, by appearance, between asbestos bearing and asbestos free insulation. To establish a guideline, insulating materials installed prior to January 1, 1973 will be considered to contain asbestos fibers and will be treated according to the attached guide.

The following list indicates those asbestos bearing items which do not constitute a health hazard and are approved for use in the refinery without special handling:

- Woven asbestos covered thermocouple lead wires
- Solid sheet asbestos gaskets
- Spiral wound asbestos packed gaskets
- Woven fabric asbestos gaskets
- Asbestos gloves
- Asbestos welding blankets
- Graphite or teflon impregnated woven asbestos packing

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Any asbestos bearing material, presently on hand or contemplated for purchase, that is not in the above list should be reviewed with a representative of the Safety Department and the Industrial Hygienist to determine if its use would require any special personal protective measures.

ASBESTOS HANDLING REQUIREMENTS

The following precautions are based on OSHA and EPA rules and upon three Industrial Hygiene Investigations conducted in the Beaumont and Paulsboro Refineries in late 1974. These precautions are intended to cover routine jobs such as pipe insulation removal; where large jobs like unit demolition are involved additional precautions may be required.

1. The job planner involved in a job which will require the removal of asbestos bearing thermal insulation should notify a Safety Department Supervisor to inform him of the nature of the intended work.
2. The job supervisor or his designee will obtain sufficient caution signs, caution tags (see figure 1), heavy plastic bags, and safety tape to complete the job. These items are available from the Safety Storeroom.
3. The area of insulation removal shall be isolated with safety tape. The safety tape shall be located at least 25 feet from the work area.
4. Caution signs must be posted at all approaches to the area in which asbestos is to be handled.
5. All workers inside the area marked by safety tape shall wear air purifying respirators or fresh air masks.
6. Employees who, according to a medical examination, cannot function normally with a respirator shall not be assigned to work requiring a respirator.
7. Asbestos bearing material shall not be handled in a dry condition. It must be wetted to keep moist before and during handling.

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8. All removed insulation shall be carefully placed in the plastic bags available from the Safety Department. When full, the bags shall be sealed and the caution tags attached in a readily visible location.
9. Piping and other equipment covered with asbestos insulation shall not be dropped or thrown from buildings or structures. It shall be carefully lowered to the ground. The insulation shall be wetted before lowering.
10. The EPA must be notified at least 20 days before starting "demolition" work on asbestos covered piping and equipment. Routine maintenance and repair work is not to be considered as demolition and does not require notification. Examples of demolition which would require EPA notification are: demolition of TCO-1, or major physical changes of a structure which bears asbestos insulation. The unit responsible for initiating demolition work should contact the Conservation Engineering Section at least 30 days before demolition activities are initiated so that they may forward the required notification to the EPA.
11. Sealed containers of asbestos scrap may be taken to the sanitary land fill area where it is buried. The job supervisor or his designee shall notify the Conservation Engineering Section before having the scrap hauled to the land fill area.
12. On jobs performed by contractors, it is the contractor's responsibility to conduct the job in accordance with the OSHA and EPA rules and regulations. The Mobil Contract on contracted jobs shall insure that the contractor is aware of his obligations to conform with these regulations. The contractor will provide his own signs, tags, bags, and barricade tape, etc.

Note: If more detailed information is desired, refer to Attachments I, II, and III.

Attachment I - ASBESTOS HANDLING GUIDE (9-7-73)
Attachment II - OSHA RULES AND REGULATIONS
Attachment III - EPA RULES AND REGULATIONS

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Attachments

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CAUTION

CONTAINS
ASBESTOS FIBERS

AVOID
CREATING DUST

BREATHING
ASBESTOS DUST
MAY CAUSE
SERIOUS
BODILY HARM

FIGURE 1.

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DATE September 7, 1973

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ASBESTOS HANDLING GUIDE

The attached guide has been developed from the OSHA and the EPA standards covering asbestos handling. Only those parts of the standards which apply at this location have been included in the digest.

If you approve of the guide as shown and issue it to the line organization for implementation, Safety and Security will obtain the necessary signs and labels that are called for in the standards.

J. L. Wascoat
J. L. Wascoat

Attachment

ATTACHMENT I

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ASBESTOS HANDLING GUIDE

Asbestos is a hydrated magnesium silicate which is commonly used for heat insulation and in textile products which must resist high temperatures. Inhalation of excessive quantities of asbestos fiber can be hazardous to a person's health.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have each issued standards concerning the requirements for handling asbestos. Included are precautions necessary to avoid releasing airborne fibers, required personal protective equipment, correct handling procedures, environmental monitoring, medical examinations, employee exposure records, and notification of intended demolition work. A Management Guide Bulletin has been released concerning "Medical Supervision of Asbestos Workers." Both the EPA standard and the Management Guide refer to the OSHA standard and require its use.

Because the OSHA standard is particularly difficult to read and comprehend, the attached has been drafted to serve as a distillation and compilation of the OSHA and EPA standards. This digest is intended to be a working guide for use at this location for the following situations:

1. Where employees are, or may be, subjected to significant exposure to asbestos fibers (this is the OSHA part), or
2. Where asbestos or asbestos covered equipment is handled, transported, or disposed of in such a way that could release asbestos fibers to the community (this is the EPA part).

The installation of asbestos bearing mortar and asbestos type thermal insulation has been discontinued. When asbestos bearing insulation is removed during equipment maintenance, it is to be replaced with asbestos free insulation. Measurements of airborne asbestos fiber concentration have been made on several occasions when old asbestos bearing insulation was being removed; the results indicated that the airborne concentrations were significantly below the permissible time weighted average concentration.

Some actions are required by the standards regardless of the concentration of airborne fibers. The reference numbers for these particular items are underlined.

RM:jl
9-7-73

Attachment

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