

new
changed

(1) Asbestos-Cement Pipe (SIC 3292)

Exposure data are available from 1975-1976 from the CONSAD [27] and WESTON [11] reports. Much of CONSAD exposure data were taken from the WESTON report. More recent information has been provided by OSHA [28] and obtained from manufacturers during plant visits by RTI [29]. The range of time-weighted average (TWA) asbestos exposures currently found is from less than 0.1 Mf/m^3 to 7 Mf/m^3 . A well-controlled plant has dust levels up to 1 Mf/m^3 and only in finishing operations do asbestos levels even approach this 1 Mf/m^3 figure [29].

Process step	1975-76 Exposure level range (TWA) [29] (Mf/m^3)	1980 Average [27, 28] (Mf/m^3)
Fiber receiving & storage	0.2 to 2.5^a	0.5
Fiber introduction	0.1 to 4.8	0.5 - 1.0
Dry mix - wet mix	0.4 to 3.0	0.5 - 1.0
Pipe formation	0.1 to 1.4	0.5
Air cure/autoclaving	0.2 to 0.3	0.5
Sawing	0.1 to 1.9	1.0 - 1.5
Finishing lathes	<0.1 to 0.7	1.0 - 1.5
Coupling cutoff & machining	0.2 to 2.3	1.0 - 1.5
Fittings & specialties	0.5 to 2.1	1.0 - 1.5
Drilling	<0.1 to 0.5	<0.5
Rework saw & crushing	0.5 to 7.0	1.0 - 2.0
Floor sweeping	<0.1 to 0.3	<0.5
Quality control inspection	<0.1 to 0.2	<0.5

^a Million fibers ($>5\mu\text{m}$) per cubic meter (Mf/m^3).

Comparing OSHA testing data [28] and information obtained on a plant visit with average levels reported in the WESTON report [11], asbestos cement pipe manufacturers have made improvements in reducing asbestos levels in most areas of manufacturing.

