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Requirements

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	Section	SAFETY
ASBESTOS HANDLING REQUIREMENTS	Issued	November 17, 1975 Code 11.7
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Asbestos is a hydrated magnesium silicate used for heat insulation and in textile products which must resist high temperatures.

Airborne asbestos fibers have been found to be hazardous to a person's health when significant quantities of the material are inhaled. Accordingly, the Beaumont Refinery has adopted specific precautions and handling requirements regarding asbestos to safeguard the health of employees and the surrounding area. These procedures incorporate the standards for asbestos handling issued by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and the Environmental Protection Agency.

Each supervisor is responsible for insuring compliance with the procedures in his work area.

Questions about the procedures or their interpretations should be directed to the Safety Department which maintains a reference file of the latest applicable material.

Approved List

The items listed below contain asbestos. They have been examined, found NOT to present any health hazards and are approved for use in the refinery without special handling requirements.

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

Asbestos bearing material not on the approved list must be reviewed by the Safety and Security Department before use to determine if special personal protective measures are necessary.

Insulating Material

All new thermal insulating material including mortar must be asbestos free for refinery use. This has been a standing instruction for the Purchasing Department since August 29, 1972.

Some asbestos bearing insulation may have the same appearance as newer material that is asbestos free. When a doubt exists, material installed prior to January 1, 1973 should be assumed to be asbestos bearing.

When asbestos bearing insulation is removed during equipment maintenance, it is to be replaced with asbestos free insulation.

Handling Requirements

The proprietary plant or section is responsible for ensuring compliance with the requirements below for handling asbestos in the Beaumont Refinery. When requested, the Safety and Security Department serves in an advisory capacity concerning these items to aid in securing such compliance.

1. The Safety and Security Department should be informed in advance of large pre-planned jobs requiring the removal of asbestos bearing insulation. Such notification is not necessary for small jobs such as removing a small section insulation for the inspection of base metal. The worker or workers removing the insulation must wear an air purifying respirator. If significant airborne fibers may be generated, then the precautions below must be observed.
2. Respirators, caution signs, caution tags and safety tape should be obtained to complete the jobs. These items are presently available from the Safety Store-room.
3. Asbestos is best handled in a wet condition. It should be wetted to keep moist during the removal and handling period if possible.
4. In congested areas and in process units, a safety tape barrier must be installed to isolate where insulation is being removed. It is recommended that the safety tape be located at least 25 feet from the work area. Tape barriers are not required when small groups are working in isolated areas where other personnel will not be present.
5. All workers inside the area marked by the safety tape must wear air purifying respirators as well as those handling the material. This requirement is essential regardless of the wetting practice or the need for a barricade.
6. Caution signs must be posted at all approaches to the area in which asbestos type insulation is being handled.
7. Employees who, according to medical examination, cannot function normally with a respirator device must not be assigned to work requiring a respirator.
8. All removed insulation must be carefully placed in plastic bags. When full, the bags must be sealed and the caution tags attached in a readily visible location.
9. Piping and other equipment covered with asbestos insulation must not be dropped or thrown from buildings or structures. It must be carefully lowered to the ground. When jacketing has been removed from piping, the insulation must be wetted before lowering.
10. The Environmental Protection Agency must be notified on demolition work involving asbestos covered piping and equipment. Engineering's Conservation Section is responsible for such notification and therefore the Section must be informed at least 30 days prior to the start of field work.
11. Sealed containers of asbestos scrap may be taken to the sanitary land fill area for burying. Engineering's Conservation Section must be informed before such action is taken.
12. Contractors working in the refinery are responsible for conducting their work in compliance with OSHA and EPA regulations. The Mobil representative dealing with the contractor is responsible for making sure the firm is aware of its obligations to conform with these regulations. The contractor must provide its own signs, bags, bags and barricade tape, etc.

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Personnel Protective Measures to be Followed
During Asbestos Handling

1. All asbestos containing insulation must be thoroughly wetted with water before removal.

Wetting can be accomplished by any practical means such as hose lines or water spray from self-contained apparatus.

Wet steam is another possible means of saturation of asbestos if feasible and conducted safely.

Five minutes of water application for 25 square feet of asbestos surface insulation area should suffice.

When asbestos is being removed, a suitable means of containment must be used to catch chunks of asbestos to prevent dispersion of asbestos fibers.

2. Employees involved in the removal operation must be equipped with a single-use, disposable respirator as approved by appropriate local government authority. If no single-use respirator is approved and it is necessary to use one approved for multiple use, it should be discarded after use.

Employees also must wear gloves, coveralls and shoe covers. Gloves, coveralls and shoe covers, wherever possible, should be of the single-use, disposable type.

Employees must not continue to wear this protective clothing if they leave the job site for another activity and specifically when eating.

If non-disposable protective clothing is used, the collection and laundering procedures as outlined by the Medical Director's office of Mobil Oil Corporation must be followed.

3. Asbestos-insulation waste, debris and used disposable clothing must immediately be packed in impervious bags and affixed with cautionary tags. The tag shall state:

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CAUTION
Contains Asbestos Fibers
Avoid Creating Dust
Breathing Asbestos Dust May Cause Serious Bodily Harm
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4. The bagged waste material should be disposed of daily. If an installation has no means of disposal, a qualified disposal contractor should be used. For locations having landfill projects, such as those conducted at refineries, disposal may be in the landfill; however, it should be covered over on a daily basis.
5. Proper cautionary signs must be displayed at each asbestos removal or demolition site. The signs shall state:

*
ASBESTOS
DUST HAZARD

Avoid Breathing Dust
Wear Assigned Protective Equipment
Do Not Remain in Area Unless
Your Work Requires It
Breathing Asbestos Dust May be
Hazardous To Your Health

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Cautionary signs should be placed at a suitable distance (Suggest a minimum of fifty feet) around the removal site, demolition site, and collection point.

Any employee entering these areas not immediately involved in the removal of asbestos must wear an approved, single-use, disposable respirator.

6. It is also recommended that area monitoring be conducted during any large-sized asbestos removal project to determine the extent of possible drift of asbestos fibers.

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