

Texts Cover Asbestos Issues from Legal Aspects to Engineering

Increasing interest in asbestos litigation, removal makes these texts valuable resources

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With the number of inquiries received regarding the review of "Asbestos Removal & Control" it appears that the area warrants additional attention. To this end, I'm including five additional asbestos reference texts for your review.

"ASBESTOS—PROPERTIES, APPLICATIONS AND HAZARDS." Vol. 1.—Ed's. L. Michaels and S.S. Chissick, John Wiley & Sons, New York, 551 p. 1979.

An excellent source book on asbestos compiled from an array of worldwide experts on the subject of asbestos. The chemistry and mineralogy of asbestos are delicately covered in the first three chapters. The uniqueness of this work lies in the coverage of topics such as: "Attitudes to Asbestos" and "Alternatives to Asbestos in Industrial Applications."

"ASBESTOS RELATED DISEASE"—L. Preger, D. Arai, P. Kotin, H. Weill, J. Werchick, Grune & Stratton, 111 Fifth Ave. New York, NY 10003 271 p., 1978.

This book could easily be renamed, "Everything you need to know about

the medical/clinical aspects of asbestos disease." It's easily read by even the non-medical person who at least is willing to carry a medical dictionary under one arm. Special areas of the book are: "The Industrial Medical Officer and Corporate Responsibility" and "Medicolegal Aspects."

"ASBESTOS AND DISEASE"—I.J. Selikoff and D.H.K. Lee, Academic Press, New York, 549 p. 1978.

This work is unique in the way it winds through the history of asbestos and its physical or chemical properties with the same dexterity as it does the medical diagnosis and clinical aspects of various diseases associated with mineral fibers. It is very obvious to this reader that the authors have a true feeling for the patients and their environment of exposure as they take great care to elaborate on the background of otherwise buried theory and practice. The sections on "mechanisms" are each particularly well done and lead the reader through a logical sequence of the disease process.

"SOURCEBOOK ON ASBESTOS DISEASES: MEDICAL, LEGAL AND ENGINEERING ASPECTS."—G.A. Peters and B.J. Peters, Garland STPM Press, New York & London, 300 p. (+/-) 1980.

The authors are both attorneys, and George Peters is also a safety engineer. This interesting approach to an asbestos sourcebook is heavily directed to the world of asbestos litigators. It is a straightforward "how to generate an asbestos lawsuit" handbook for attorneys. Putting that bias aside, it is an excellent primer on either what or what not to do for those of use who must manage the problems of asbestos in the industrial workplace. Both "allegations" and "defenses" are offered which keep the pace of reading at a fever pitch trying to decide which side is going to win.

"ENGINEERING ASPECTS OF ASBESTOS DUST CONTROLS"—G.S. Rajhans and F.M. Bragg, Ann Arbor Science Publishers Inc. P.O. Box 1425, Ann Arbor, MI 48106, 191 p. 1978.

Just as the title suggests, this text is

dedicated to principles of engineering, architecture and the building trades as they use or relate to asbestos. Physical properties are taken beyond the normal understanding of asbestos as a substance and are related more to their application in industry. Excellent sections on ventilation and containment of released fibers allow the reader to deal with the practical, every day equipment needs of the asbestos worksite in a manner which engineers away the hazards where possible.

Which one of these asbestos resources is the best? Which one does the right job? Which one would I recommend? They are each excellent in their own light and must be treated independently. I use them all for different purposes. Look them over, and I believe you will add them to your library if you are at all involved with asbestos.

Book: Text Contains Collection of Works

"OCCUPATIONAL LUNG DISEASE"—J.B.L. Gee, W.K.C. Morgan, S.M. Brooks, Raven Press, 1140 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10036, 264 p. 1984.

When I first saw the title of this book I was hopeful that it was an update of the predecessor work of Morgan and Seaton ("Occupational Lung Diseases," W.B. Saunders Co. 1975) which I have read several times cover-to-cover. When I received the review copy, I was understandably disappointed in that it was not the well organized informational resource I'd expected, but rather a compilation of contributed works with little or no continuity. Approximately half the book was made up of articles of increasing brevity. By the halfway point, the rest of the volume was one- or two-page "abstractions."

Understanding the format, we can turn to content. What was there was of high quality and relevant to today's workplace. I found myself continually wishing for more information on



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