

F.R. 12-7-71

DEPT OF LABOR - ASBESTOS EXPOSURE

Title 41—PUBLIC CONTRACTS
AND PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Chapter 50—Public Contracts,
Department of Labor

PART 50-204—SAFETY AND HEALTH
STANDARDS FOR FEDERAL SUPPLY
CONTRACTS

Standard for Exposure to Asbestos
Dust

Pursuant to section 4(b)(2) of the Williams-Steiger Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (84 Stat. 1592, 29 U.S.C. 653), § 50-204.50 of Title 41, Code of Federal Regulations, is hereby amended in the manner indicated below in order to prescribe a new standard limiting the exposure of workers to asbestos dust. The new standard limiting the exposure of employees to asbestos dust is that adopted under section 6(c) of the Williams-Steiger Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 and published in the FEDERAL REGISTER on this date. The standard is hereby determined to be more effective than that presently provided under § 50-204.50 to the extent that it prescribes minimum levels of exposure to asbestos dust. Therefore, by operation of section 4(b)(2) of the Act the new standard issued under section 6(c) supersedes the construction safety standard relating to exposure to asbestos dust.

Section 50-204.50 is amended to read as follows in order to apply the new standard limiting the exposure of workers to asbestos dust:

§ 50-204.50 Cases, vapors, fumes, dusts, and mists.

(a) (1) Exposures by inhalation, ingestion, skin absorption, or contact to any material or substance (1) at a concentration above those specified in the "Threshold Limit Values of Airborne Contaminants for 1968" of the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists, except for the ANSI Standards listed in Table I of this section and except for the values of mineral dusts listed in Table II of this section, and (2) concentrations above those specified in Tables I and II of this section, shall be avoided, or protective equipment shall be provided and used.

(2) The requirements of this section do not apply to exposures to airborne asbestos dust. Exposures of employees to airborne asbestos dust shall be subject to the requirements of 29 CFR 1910.93a.

(b) To achieve compliance with paragraph (a) of this section, feasible administrative or engineering controls must first be determined and implemented in all cases. In cases where protective equipment in addition to other measures is used as the method of protecting the employee, such protection must be approved for each specific application by a competent industrial hygienist or other technically qualified source.

TABLE II—MINERAL DUSTS

Substance	Mppcf	Mg/M ³
Silica:		
Crystalline:		
Quartz (respirable).....	250	10mg/M ³ =
Quartz (total dust).....	%SiO ₂ +8	%SiO ₂ +2 50mg/M ³
		%SiO ₂ +2
Cristobalite: Use 1/2 the value calculated from the count or mass formulae for quartz.		
Tridymite: Use 1/2 the value calculated from the formulae for quartz.		
Amorphous, including natural diatomaceous earth.....	50	50mg/M ³
		%SiO ₂
Silicates (less than 1% crystalline silica):		
Mica.....	20	
Soapstone.....	20	
Talc.....	20	
Portland cement.....	50	
Graphite (natural).....	15	
Coal dust (respirable fraction less than 5% SiO ₂).....		2.4mg/M ³ or 10mg/M ³
For more than 5% SiO ₂		%SiO ₂ +8
Inert or Nuisance Dust:		
Respirable fraction.....	15	5mg/M ³
Total dust.....	50	15mg/M ³

NOTE: Conversion factors—
mppcf×35.3=millions particles per cubic meter
=particles per c.c.

* Millions of particles per cubic foot of air, based on impinger samples counted by light-field technique.

† The percentage of crystalline silica in the formula is the amount determined from air-borne samples, except in those instances in which other methods have been shown to be applicable.

‡ As determined by the membrane filter method at 480 X phase contrast magnification.

§ Both concentration and percent quartz for the application of this limit are to be determined from the fraction passing a six-selector with the following characteristics:

Aerodynamic diameter (unit density sphere)	Percent passing selector
2	90
2.5	75
3.5	50
5.0	25
10	0

The measurements under this note refer to the use of an AEC instrument. If the respirable fraction of coal dust is determined with a MRE the figure corresponding to that of 2.4 Mg/M³ in the table for coal dust is 4.5 Mg/M³.

Effective date. This amendment shall become effective upon publication in the FEDERAL REGISTER (12-7-71).

(Sec. 4(b)(2), 84 Stat. 1592, 29 U.S.C. 653; Secretary's Order No. 12-71, 56 F.R. 8764)

Signed at Washington, D.C., this 2d day of December 1971.

G. C. GUENTHER,
Assistant Secretary of Labor.

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