

**AT&T Bell Laboratories Standard
on Asbestos**

Intent: To establish a standard to insure compliance with applicable Federal and State regulations regarding asbestos.

Information:

Maintenance and repair work on some of the Bell Laboratories plant facilities has required the removal of asbestos insulation on pipes, boilers, applicable state and federal regulations:

1. All contractors or Bell Laboratories employees engaged in asbestos handling or removal must comply with EPA regulations as well as, those outlined in (OSHA) Standard 29 CFR 1910.1001.
2. The Environmental Health, Environmental Management and Safety Center is available to review contractor work practices to insure compliance with all applicable regulations. EHEM&S Center is also available to monitor BTL employees who have a potential asbestos exposure or answer any asbestos related questions. Call MH X6551 for assistance.
3. EHEM&S Center should be notified in writing with the name of the disposal site.

Standard:

1. OSHA Standard

The present OSHA asbestos standard is two asbestos fibers per cubic centimeter of air as an 8-hour Time Weighted Average (TWA). OSHA CPL 2-2.21A requires that medical examinations be given employees who have asbestos exposures equal to or exceeding 0.1 fibers per cubic centimeter of air as an 8-hour TWA.

2. Identifying Asbestos Containing Insulation

It is not possible to determine whether or not insulation contains asbestos by visual inspection. The suspect material must be analyzed. Call the EHEM&S Center to arrange for required sampling and analysis before beginning work.

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3. Removing Asbestos Containing Insulation

Insofar as possible, asbestos should be removed or otherwise worked in a wet state sufficient to prevent emission of airborne fibers in excess of exposure limits.

4. Compliance with Standard

The Industrial Hygiene and Safety Group (IH&S) is available to monitor airborne asbestos removal operations to determine compliance with the OSHA Standard.

5. Controls

Should monitoring indicate that employees are or may be exposed to airborne asbestos concentration in excess of permissible exposure levels the OSHA standard requires a series of control measures. These include respiratory protection, protective clothing, as well as, enclosure and posting of the area with appropriate caution signs.

6. Use of Outside Contractors

Only outside contractors who agree to comply with OSHA and EPA regulations should be retained to remove asbestos. This agreement should be in writing. And it should clearly indicate the contractor's responsibility to take such steps as necessary to insure that Bell Laboratories employees are not exposed to impermissible levels of asbestos fibers during the course of the contractor's work.

The EHEM&S is available to review the work of outside contractors to insure compliance.

7. Disposal

Asbestos is not regulated by RCRA, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, and may be disposed of in an approved sanitary landfill. The Environmental Management Group should be supplied with the name of landfills used for asbestos disposal. Call MH X4868.

Contact: The EHEM&S Center is available to review work of outside contractors, monitor air fibers and determine compliance with OSHA regulations. Call MH X2250 for assistance.

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