Appendix C. Asbestos-Containing Materials Found in Buildings*

Asbestos-containing construction materials and products can be divided into two categories:

- Category I — Friable materials; and
- Category II — Nonfriable matrix-bonded composite products, and textile products.

Friable materials are those which can be crumbled, pulverized, or reduced to powder in the hand—readily releasing fibers with minimal mechanical disturbance. Most insulating materials sprayed or troweled onto surfaces are friable.

Nonfriable, matrix-bonded composite products are prepared by mixing fibers with various bonding agents (e.g., starch, glue, plastics, cements, asphalt). The degree of asbestos fiber immobilization and the degree of release vary according to use, environmental conditions, and physical damage. Friable materials covered with a hard wrap or coating, such as pipe insulation, are considered nonfriable unless damage to the wrap exposes the friable material.

In asbestos textile products, raw asbestos fibers and fibers of numerous other materials, both of organic and inorganic origin, are worked into rovings, yarns and cords and can be woven, braided, or knitted. Usually, binding agents are not used in these products but many are coated.

Each of the two major categories can be subdivided into several more specific groups of products. Table C-1 contains information on the percent asbestos, generic name, dates of use, and binder/sizing of the subdivision.

*The information in this Appendix is taken, with modification, from: Lory EE, Coin DC. February 1981. *Management Procedure for Assessment of Friable Asbestos Insulating Material.* Port Hueneme, CA: Civil Engineering Laboratory Naval Construction Battalion Center. The U.S. Navy prohibits the use of asbestos-containing materials when acceptable nonasbestos substitutes have been identified.