

... must be provided for all regularly employed personnel who work at a fixed place of employment where airborne concentrations exceed 5 fibers/ml.

RESPIRATORY PROTECTION

The O.S.H.A. Rules & Regulations require that a respiratory protection program be established by the employer, and specifies the use of air purifying respirators to control exposures which exceed 5 fibers/ml but are less than 50 fibers/ml. However, the use of respirators is an interim means of controlling exposures, and they may only be used during the time period necessary to install engineering controls or implement a change in work practices.

It is our understanding the MSA Dust Foe Respirators with replaceable cartridges are available to the employees upon request. These respirators are approved by the U. S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Mines. However, it should be ascertained that the replaceable cartridge used with the respirator for protection against asbestos dust is the Type F FILTER.

The operators of Machine No. P-11 in Block Preform and the vertical saw in the Book Press Department should be provided with respirators of this type. Until engineering controls have been installed, the use of respirators should be required at all times during operation of these units. If the Plant respiratory protection program needs improvement, expansion, or further development, referral to ANSI Standard Z88.2-1969 will provide assistance in meeting requirements.

POSTING REQUIREMENTS

In all locations where airborne concentrations exceed 5 fibers/ml. caution signs must be provided and displayed. The signs should be posted at all approaches to the areas in question, and should be located at such a distance from the operations that an employee can take necessary protective steps before entering the area. The legend and sign specifications are listed on page 11321 of the attached O.S.H.A. asbestos standard.