

FRICITION MATERIALS STANDARDS INSTITUTE, INC., EAST 210 ROUTE 4, PARAMUS, NJ 07652

B U L L E T I N

N O . 8 3 8

October 15, 1985

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION HAZARD COMMUNICATION RULES

The Federal Government through the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) published its final rule on hazard communications on November 25, 1983. Essentially, this rule requires that manufacturers advise their employees on the hazards of chemicals with which they work. Included in "chemicals" are asbestos-containing products. Further, the rules require that manufacturers and importers transmit information to "downstream employers" by means of labels and material safety data sheets so that they may advise their employees of the hazards. The standard requires that manufacturers and importers label containers of hazardous chemicals and provide material safety data sheets to customers.

Recently, the Asbestos Information Association, NA (AIA) advised its Members on the Enforcement Guidelines that had been issued by OSHA to its inspectors. The inspectors will be determining the adequacy of a company's hazard communications program by certain specific examinations.

This standard becomes effective for manufacturers and importers on November 25, 1985, and for all employers (which would include Members' customers) on May 25, 1986. The Standard, among other things, required employers to maintain written records documenting certain procedures. In order to understand the rules and the program specifics, we have enclosed the following:

1. FEDERAL REGISTER Notice of November 25, 1983 on the Final Rule for Hazard Communications. (This does not include certain explanatory and background data which appeared in the full Notice).
2. Summary "OSHA Hazard Communication Enforcement Guidelines Issued" as prepared by the Asbestos Information Association.
3. Cover memorandum on the guide entitled "Workplace Hazard Communication Program for Asbestos."
4. Tabulation of OSHA Regional Office Addresses and Phone Numbers, as well as location and phone numbers for Area Offices.
5. U. S. Department of Labor "Material Safety Data Sheet."

Where you have questions on the rules, you should contact your Regional or Area Office of OSHA. The foregoing is sent as a matter of information.

E. W. Drislane
Executive Director

Distribution:
Delegates and Alternates
Active Members - List B
H.E.A. Committee
Regional Members (U.S.Dues)

FMSI--0435

FMSI 02528