

Subject: Central Office Cable Penetration Closures

GL: 74-10-033

date: October 8, 1974



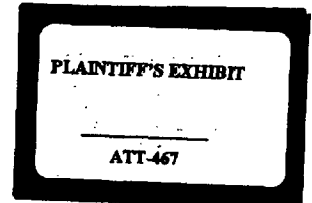
American Telephone and
Telegraph Company
196 Broadway
New York, N.Y. 10007
Phone (212) 383-8800

file no { of 74-10-033
other

to: Chief Engineers, General Plant Managers, Medical Directors
and OSHA Coordinators

from: Director - Outside Plant, Safety and Supplies
Engineering Director - Equipment and Buildings
and Medical Director

synopsis: Provides interim instructions for replacing transite wall and floor
covers with steel plates.



* * *

Attached to this letter is a Temporary Instruction being issued by Western Electric Company to replace existing instructions regarding transite floor and wall coverings. These interim measures were adopted after a series of meetings between Western Electric, Bell Telephone Laboratories, and A.T. & T. Plant, Engineering and Medical Departments.

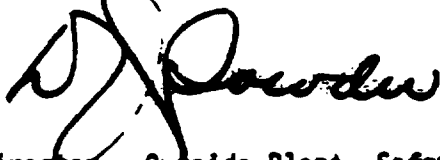
Effective September 1, 1974 all orders shipped from Western that require material to close new cable holes will have steel plates substituted for transite. In addition, all jobs engineered after October 1, 1974 which require cutting of existing covers to add cable or equipment will receive steel covers to replace the transite covers that would normally be cut in the field. The cost of the steel replacement covers will be borne by the associated companies and should be included in all future engineering.

This interim change is being implemented to provide Western Electric Installers and Telephone Company Operating Personnel with a better health environment. Transite board contains asbestos and cannot be cut, drilled or filed without releasing low levels of airborne asbestos dust particles, which over a long period of time can create a health problem. Existing floor and wall coverings do not present any source of airborne particles and are to be left in place. Effective with this letter, however, there is to be no further cutting or

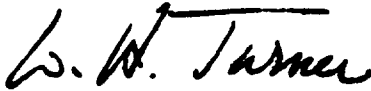
002389

shaping of existing transite covers - a substitute steel cover should be obtained from Western Electric if any changes in configuration become necessary.

The Bell Telephone Laboratories are continuing their investigation of fire and smoke penetration through floor and wall cable openings. Pending the final results of their testing program, the interim instructions outlined above will be followed.



Director - Outside Plant, Safety and Supplies



Engineering Director - Equipment and Buildings



Medical Director

Attachment

Aug 12 1974

Installation Engineering Handbook 30
Western Electric
Service Division

TI Section 15D

ADVANCE COPY
TEMPORARY INSTRUCTION
CABLE PENETRATION - CLOSURES

1. GENERAL

- 1.1 The purpose of this Temporary Instruction is to provide Installation with the history and to explain the reason why the floor and wall cable hole cover material is being changed from transite to steel.
- 1.2 The Bell System cable hole assemblies have been accepted throughout the country for over fifty years. However, there are no records of BTL tests establishing their fire resistance capabilities. Accordingly, in 1970, CIE requested AT&T to approve the replacement of transite with steel in order to reduce the Installer's effort in fabricating cable hole penetration closures. In August, 1971, AT&T requested BTL-Whippany to undertake an analytical and experimental program to upgrade the fire policy described in EL 1343. As a result, a group at Whippany was formed and a full scale test facility, equivalent to a Central Office building bay two stories high, was constructed at Chester Laboratories, N.J.
- 1.3 Over the past several years, numerous tests have been conducted to establish minimum standard time requirements for smoke and fire penetration through cable hole assemblies. Tests at Bell Telephone Laboratory are still in progress to determine if any further improvements to the cable hole concept can be made.
- 1.4 The substitution of steel for transite floor covers will reduce material cost and fabrication time; but more important, it will improve the Installer's environment. When transite material is cut, it produces low levels of airborne asbestos dust particles. Accordingly, the Installer is required to wear a respirator and gloves as protection. Cutting of steel will eliminate this potential health problem and the need for these personnel protection requirements.
- 1.5 Because of the importance of improving the Installer's environment, a program to replace the transite material used as cable penetration closures with steel plates has been initiated. All orders (requiring material for closing new cable holes) which are shipped after 9/1/74 will be provided with steel floor and wall plates. All orders engineered after 10/1/74 which require the opening of an existing cable hole to add additional cables, will receive steel plates to replace the existing transite covers.

Printed in U.S.A.

002391

2. INSTRUCTION

- 2.1 Disregard all figures in Series 15 of Handbook 30 depicting transite material when steel floor and wall closure plates are received on job site. Install steel floor and wall closures in manner similar to transite covers.
- 2.2 Cut floor and wall steel plates with the R-4355 Nibbler similar to the ceiling steel plates.
- 2.3 The replaced transite wall and floor covers are not to be cut-up or in any way reduced in size prior to disposal via the local scavenger service.

**Engineering Planning Manager
Onion Installation Engineering**

002392



American Telephone and
Telegraph Company
285 North Maple Avenue
Basking Ridge, N. J. 07820
Phone (201) 221-2000

January 3, 1979

TO ALL SAFETY COORDINATORS

Attached for your information is a copy of the long awaited System Letter dealing with the problem of asbestos gloves in Central Office locations.

The letter recommends a systematic replacement of KS-8463 asbestos gloves with the new KS-22240 gloves over a three year period. Disposal instructions are included within the System Letter.

Until such time that a complete changeout of gloves is completed, it is recommended that the KS-8463 asbestos gloves not be removed from the canisters for periodic inspection.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "R.L. Beach".

R.L. Beach
Manager - Safety

Attachment

002393

Subject: Introduces the New KS-22240 Heat and Fire Retardant Glove

st: RL 78-12-071

type letter: Recommendation

date: December 8, 1978

distribution note:

to: RL 78-12-071

related letters:

other:

cc: Building Operating Staff Heads

from: Director - Real Estate Management, Automotive Operations,
Energy and Environment

description: Introduces the new KS-22240 Heat and Fire Retardant Gloves and calls for
the removal of all KS-8463 Asbestos Gloves.

* * *

Federal regulations have placed limits on the use of products or materials which contain or are made of asbestos, but more specifically, where the use of this product or material will introduce free asbestos fibers into the atmosphere. Since this ruling, Western Electric Purchased Product Engineering has been searching for an acceptable replacement for the KS-8463 asbestos gloves.

Presently, each portable fire extinguisher station in central office equipment areas has a canister (KS-8434) mounted with, or adjacent to, the extinguisher station and containing a pair of KS-8463 asbestos gloves. These gloves were intended to be used after extinguishment of a fire, to separate bundles of wires in order to put out any burning embers.

It is recommended that all existing KS-8463 asbestos gloves be replaced with the new KS-22240 Heat and Fire Retardant Gloves. These new gloves can be ordered through Western Electric supply as:

Gloves (Fire Retardant), KS-22240

The cost of each pair of KS-22240 gloves is approximately \$5.25 to the OTC, and will be available during the second quarter of 1979.

These gloves are constructed of two layers of material, with the outer layer being of fire retardant cotton twist terricord and the liner being of 6 ounce cotton material. The overall length of each glove is approximately 19 inches and is made for use on either hand. Tests indicate that these gloves will not support combustion and have a high resistance to the transfer of heat. When rolled in pairs, they can be stored in the existing KS-8434 canisters.

NOTICE

Not for use or disclosure outside the
Bell System except under written agreement.



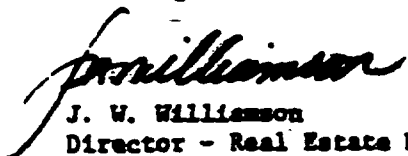
American Telephone and
Telegraph Company
195 Broadway
New York, N. Y. 10007
Phone (212) 383-0800

002394

At the present time, spacing of the existing asbestos gloves is at each extinguisher station in central office equipment areas. The new gloves, stored in a KS-8434 canister, should be located at the main entrance to each central office equipment area, not at each extinguisher location. The programmed replacement of the KS-8463 asbestos gloves should be over a three year period.

The existing KS-8463 asbestos gloves should be disposed of by placing them in a plastic bag and tying the end. The individuals performing this task should be equipped with a face mask to prevent the inhalation of free asbestos fibers. These plastic bags, containing the KS-8463 gloves with the open end tied, should be removed to an approved sanitary land fill operation suitable for disposal of this material.

Any questions regarding these gloves should be addressed to V. J. Hession (201)221-4986.



J. W. Williamson

Director - Real Estate Management, Automotive Operations,
Energy and Environment

October 30, 1981

Mr. O. C. Aarhyn
17-1239K3

Chuck:

The instructions provided to the BOCs regarding modification of C Manhole Heaters should contain sufficient detail to ensure compliance with both OSHA and EPA requirements. Based on my perception of the construction of the heater and the friable nature of the asbestos tape, I would recommend the following precautionary measures:

1. Wet the asbestos tape prior to removing the rivets and tape.
2. If any of the asbestos tape sticks to the heater, wet the stuck residue prior to scraping.
3. All removed tape, scrapings, and any contaminated rags or debris should be placed in sealed impermeable bags or containers labelled as follows:

CAUTION

Contains Asbestos
Avoid Breathing Dust
Breathing Asbestos May Cause
Serious Bodily Harm

1. Personnel performing the modifications should wash their hands prior to eating, drinking, or smoking.
2. The sealed bags must be disposed of in accordance with state and local regulations for asbestos containing waste.

In those BOCs that perform their own vehicle maintenance, it should be possible to obtain bags and labels from the garage forces, as similar

002396

requirements exist for the handling of dust removed from brake drums and clutch assemblies. Disposal of the filled bags could also be consolidated with the same garage forces.

Please advise if additional assistance is required. When the final product is ready for distribution, I would like to include the Company Safety Coordinators.



James M. Degen
District Manager - Occupational
and Environmental Safety

002397



Bell Laboratories

608 Mountain Avenue
Murray Hill, New Jersey 07974
Phone (201) 582-3000

January 28, 1982

Mr. L. Bennett
Southwestern Bell Telephone
Rm 459, 1111 W. Capitol Street
Little Rock, Arkansas 72202

Dear Larry:

This is in response to your inquiry whether heat shield pads contain asbestos. The Bell System Practice "E Sheet Repair Sleeving" (BSP-644-200-005) recommends that heat shield pads (AD-1460) be used to protect workers who apply heat shrink sleeves. Raychem Corporation, the manufacturer of the heat shield pad, claims their pad contains an asbestos substitute, thermoglass, which replaced their former asbestos containing pads over two years ago.

A problem may arise, however, in the operating telephone companies where some asbestos heat shield pads (older than two years) are still used. To identify the older asbestos pads vs. the newer non-asbestos pads, a few differences exist. The new pads are smaller in size with these dimensions: (12" x 40" x 0.125"), shinier, and less fibrous than the older heat shrink pads. The other method to identify whether a pad contains asbestos is to analyze it, but this method is time-consuming and more expensive. If you locate any asbestos heat shrink pads, they should be properly disposed of in accordance with state and federal regulations. A replacement pad may be purchased from Raychem Corporation at a cost of \$48.40.

If you have any other questions, please call me.

Sincerely,

Patricia C. Payne

Patricia C. Payne

MH-78691-PCP-jjc

Copy to
L. C. Smith - SWBT
R. E. Eberhart
J. W. Berry, M.D.

J. M. Degen - AT&T
R. W. Stone, M.D.

W. J. Schreiber
G. M. Wilkening

002398