

April 6, 1972

R. J. England
Film Department
Circleville

ASBESTOS

Ref.: Letter from R. J. England to R. J. Habiak, 2/25/72

This letter is in reply to your request for information concerning surveys of areas where asbestos-containing material is used.

It is hard to give specific details of every survey. No two situations have the same environmental factors, materials, equipment, machine layout, etc. Every problem has to be reviewed separately to determine the sources of dust release and the associated factors that contribute to the workers' exposure.

Both personal and general room air samples have to be taken to adequately assess the situation. I have enclosed a procedure that describes the recommended membrane filter method. There is no reason to go with the Casella unit as emphasized in the attached outline. I have had good success with the M&A Minitaire and have heard from a few people who like the Unico sampler. Both of these latter units are as durable and the flowmeter is able to be checked and adjusted during the sampling period. In addition, it may be possible to use a Unico Telematic 150A sampling pump although it would have to be hand held at the nose level of the operator for "personal" samples.

Counting is done by the following laboratory on the samples that we have collected.

Professor William A. Burgess
Attention: J. Lynch
Department of Environmental Health Sciences
Harvard School of Public Health
665 Huntington Avenue
Boston, Massachusetts 02115
Telephone: 8-199-754-5500 Extension 554

253

DUP 0901930

DU 023313

April 6, 1972

In reference to your other question, the actual content of asbestos in woven asbestos "A" cloth varies from 75 to 100 percent by weight. The percentage increases with the grade designation from A to AAAA. In these cloths that are not 100 percent asbestos, cotton makes up the remainder of the weight. The narrow, two-inch wide strips will pose no hazard in handling. Because the wider 36-inch rolls are usually cut with shears, any dust problem should be minimal. If you have further questions on the composition and characteristics of the "A" cloth, you should call G.E. Lang, III, Engineering Department, Lowiers Building, on 121-3435.

Fibrous glass is considered an inert material. Exposure to it has failed to show any evidence of fibrosis or cancer. Glass cloth possesses only one potential problem and that is a cutaneous reaction from the mechanical irritation or cutting action of the fibers. Workers may prefer to use gloves when handling the cloth. Clothes may become contaminated with the fibers and consequently, be a constant source of skin irritation; therefore, clothes so contaminated should be washed separately from other wearing apparel. Washing after exposure to fiber glass will remove the fibers from the skin.

If I can be of any further assistance, do not hesitate to call.

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY
RICHARD J. ENGLAND
Richard J. England
Industrial Hygienist

RJE/nah
Attachment

DUP 0901931

DU 023314

