

**Western Electric**222 Broadway
New York, N.Y. 10038
212 569-2345

Corporate Engineering

*File
asbestos*

November 14, 1983

Re: Occupational Exposure to Asbestos; Emergency Temporary Standard;
Effective November 4, 1983

On November 4, 1983 OSHA published in the Federal Register an Emergency Temporary Standard for Asbestos (attached) which reduces the permissible exposure level (PEL) from 2 fibers (longer than 5 micrometers) per cubic centimeter (2f/cc) as an 8 hour time weighted average to 0.5f/cc.

OSHA has determined that workers exposed to asbestos under exposure conditions existing under the current standard face an extraordinarily high risk of developing incurable cancer and asbestosis, whether the risk is computed over a working lifetime of exposure or for exposure periods as short as six months. The average excess cancer risk for all workers exposed above .5f/cc using available exposure data and relying on risk assessment are estimated as approximately 196 excess cancer deaths per 1,000 workers for 45 years of exposure, 139 deaths per 1,000 for 20 years, 10 per 1,000 for 1 year and 6 per 1,000 for 6 months of exposure.

Summary of the Emergency Temporary Standard (ETC)

Effective Date:	November 4, 1983
Permissible Exposure Level:	5f/cc as an 8 hour time-weighted average
Method of Compliance:	Any feasible combination of engineering controls, work practices and personal protective equipment.
Employee Information on Training:	A training program must be instituted for all employees exposed to airborne concentrations of asbestos in excess of the PEL. This training must be completed by December 4, 1983.

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Respiratory Protections:

Where respirators are used to achieve the PEL they shall be selected according to Table 1 of the ETS.

Warning Signs:

Each location where airborne asbestos levels exceed the PEL shall be posted with warning signs warning of the health hazards associated with asbestos.

In view of the fact that the company has made substantial progress in eliminating the use of asbestos containing materials in production processes and the construction of new plants and facilities, the impact of the ETS is not expected to be great. However, care must continue to be exercised when dealing with in place uses (e.g. steampipe insulation, structural fireproofing, etc.).

The Corporate Asbestos Guidelines issued by my organization will be revised and reissued to reflect the changes in the standard.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please call J. S. Kazazis on 8-222-3551.



J. W. MCCLATCHEY
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Corporate Industrial Hygiene
& Human Factors Engineering

Att.

Letter To:
All OSHA Administrators

Copy to:
W. J. Avers
All Industrial Hygienists

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