WV-0018 #9

PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT

UC-2602

UNION CARBIDE

INTERNAL
CORRESPONDENCE

UNION CARBIDE CORPORATION TECHNICAL CENTER
P.O. BOX 8361, SOUTH CHARLESTON, WV 25303

To (Name) L. R. Noble
Division 725-1
Location
Area

Date September 4, 1986

Originating Dept HS&EA

Area Industrial Hygiene

Subject Respiratory Protection Program for Asbestos Insulators

Copy to
J. W. Barna
W. L. Browning
T. L. Collins
P. D. Gossage
P. L. Graham
C. P. Maxwell
M. L. Mills
C. L. Ruddle
R. E. Sergent

This is to inform you that there are certain respiratory protection requirements established by OSHA in its amended standard for asbestos which may be significant with regards to administration of the respiratory protection program.

As you know the amended permissible exposure limit for asbestos is 0.2 fiber per c.c. of air. For up to ten times this level (2 fibers/c.c.), it is acceptable to use a half-mask respirator equipped with HEPA filter. Between 2 and 10 fibers/c.c., a full face respirator equipped with HEPA filters is acceptable. Between 10 and 20 fibers/c.c., any powered air purifying respirator equipped with HEPA filter or any supplied-air respirator operated in continuous flow mode is acceptable.

It should be noted that the fit tests must be provided to affected employees every six months and that the qualitative fit test is acceptable only for the half-mask air purifying respirator. The full face mask in a negative pressure mode requires quantitative fit test.

It seems that a full face mask with HEPA filter would be a good choice based on our past monitoring data which shows that exposure conditions while stripping asbestos containing insulation at our location are well below 10 fibers/c.c. and in most instances, less than 2 fibers/c.c.. However, there could be a potential problem of training employees with a quantitative fit test which requires elaborate testing equipment.

Based on all facts and assessment of the situation, I make the following recommendations:

1. At all jobs requiring stripping of asbestos containing insulation, where IH monitoring is conducted, the employees should use a powered air purifying respirator equipped with HEPA filter. This will eliminate fit testing at 6 months interval.

2. At all jobs requiring stripping of asbestos containing insulation, where IH monitoring is not conducted, the employees must use supplied-air respirators operated in the positive pressure mode.

Recommendation #2 is based on the OSHA requirement which, along with other requirements, will be discussed in a meeting to be held on September 12 in the large conference rooms, Construction Department at the Institute Plant.

If you have any questions, please feel free to give me a call.

Manhar A. Patel

MAP:rab
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