SECTION 10

TEXTILES

Asbestos textiles are used in the six product categories that follow.

FIRE-RESISTANT MATERIALS

Asbestos is used to manufacture fire-resistant materials because it is fireproof, acid-resistant and strong enough to be processed into textiles using looms and other equipment commonly employed in the textile industry. For example, asbestos cloth, yarn and thread are used to produce welding curtains, draperies, blankets, protective clothing, hot conveyer belts, furnace shields and molten metal splash protection aprons.

THERMAL INSULATION

Asbestos is used in thermal insulation because of its temperature resistance, high tensile strength, abrasion resistance, corrosion resistance and durability. Asbestos tubing, tape, rope, cord, cloth and yarn are used for safety protection in pipe wraps, stress relieving pads in welding operations, protective coverings for hot glassware utensils, coverings for diesel engine exhaust lines, flue sleeves, and braided walls in steam hose construction.

ELECTRICAL INSULATION

Asbestos yarn, roving, tape, thread, felts, cord, lap, and tubing are used for the insulation of wires and cables, arcing barriers in switches, circuit breakers, heater cords, and motor winding.

Asbestos textiles are employed in electrical insulation because of their high dielectric strength, temperature resistance, flexibility, abrasion resistance and high tensile strength.

PACKINGS AND GASKETS

Asbestos is also used in packings and gaskets in the textile industry. It provides these products with low thermal conductivity, resilience, chemical stability, immunity to thermal shock, compressibility, and abrasion resistance. For example, asbestos yarn, rope, wick, cord, cloth, and tape are used for pump packings, all purpose shaft and valve stem packings, expansion joints, manhole gaskets, seals for boilers, ovens and furnaces, flange gaskets and gaskets for storage tanks, coolers and dryers.

FRICTION MATERIALS

Asbestos textiles, usually in the form of woven yarn, are used in friction materials for brake linings, clutch facings, and brake pads, primarily because of their friction and wear characteristics.

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