



Bell Laboratories

subject: Occupational Asbestos Exposure;
Emergency Temporary Standard
Case: 48102-1

date November 29, 1983
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To: Safety Committee Chairmen:
OSHA Administrators:
Medical Directors:

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 0.5f/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:	0.5f/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

PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT

ATT-274

LLA 001541

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 AT&T Bell Laboratories has made substantial progress in eliminating the use of asbestos-containing materials, 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. steam-pipe insulation, structural fireproofing, etc.).

If you have any questions or require additional information, please call the Environmental Health, Environmental Management and Safety Center, Extension 2250.


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DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Occupational Safety and Health
Administration

29 CFR Part 1910

Docket No. H-0330

Occupational Exposure to Asbestos

AGENCY: Occupational Safety and Health
Administration (OSHA), Labor.

ACTION: Emergency temporary standard.

SUMMARY: OSHA is issuing an emergency temporary standard (ETS) to reduce the permissible exposure limit (PEL) for asbestos from 2 fibers (longer than 5 micrometers) per cubic centimeter (2 f/cc) as an eight-hour time-weighted average, to 0.5 f/cc. During the period of the emergency standard, employers may use all practicable control methods, such as engineering controls, work practices and personal protective equipment to meet the new limit of 0.5 fibers per cubic centimeter (0.5 f/cc). Training programs are also required to be instituted within 30 days.

The basis for this ETS is OSHA's determination that continued employee exposure to asbestos under current conditions that exceed 0.5 f/cc presents a grave danger of developing asbestos-induced cancer and asbestosis to exposed employees, and that an emergency standard is necessary to protect them. The ETS serves also as a proposal to revise the current asbestos standard pursuant to section 6(b) and 6(c) of the Act.

This notice also requests comments on the appropriateness of including the provisions of the ETS as permanent revisions to the asbestos standard. In addition, OSHA will soon publish a separate notice of proposed rulemaking that further explains the issues under consideration for the permanent standard and which raises some additional issues regarding the application of certain provisions of the asbestos standard to the construction industry. That notice will invite public comments and will schedule a rulemaking hearing pursuant to Section 6(b) of the Act concerning the proposed permanent revision to the asbestos standard.

DATES: The effective date for this ETS is November 4, 1983. Comments and evidence concerning the proposed revisions to the permanent standard made by the ETS must be received on or before January 3, 1984. As noted, OSHA will publish a notice of proposed rulemaking shortly that will set due dates for submissions to the asbestos docket for the issues raised therein.

§ 1910.1001 Asbestos

(k) *Emergency temporary standard effective November 4, 1983.*—(1) *Scope.* This emergency temporary standard is issued pursuant to section 6(c) of the Act and applies to all workplaces where employees may be exposed to asbestos in all industries covered by the Act, including, general industry, construction and maritime. Except to the extent modified by this emergency temporary standard all provisions of § 1910.1001 remain in effect.

(2) *Permissible levels of exposure.* The 8-hour time-weighted average airborne concentration of asbestos fibers to which any employee may be exposed shall not exceed one-half (0.5) fiber, longer than 5 micrometers, per cubic centimeter of air, as determined by the method prescribed in paragraph (e) of this section.

(3) *Methods of compliance with the emergency temporary standard.* Notwithstanding any other requirements of this section, compliance with the reduced exposure limit of 0.5 f/cc shall be achieved by any feasible combination of engineering controls, work practices, and personal protective equipment and devices.

(4) *Employee information and training.*—(i) As soon as possible, but not later than thirty (30) days from the effective date of this emergency temporary standard, the employer shall institute a training program for all employees exposed to airborne concentrations of asbestos in excess of

0.5 f/cc, without regard to the use of respirators and shall assure their participation in the program during the effective period of this emergency temporary standard.

(ii) The employer shall assure that each such employee is informed of the following:

(A) The health effects associated with asbestos exposure;

(B) The relationship between asbestos and smoking in producing lung cancer;

(C) The nature of operations which could result in exposure to asbestos and necessary protective steps to minimize exposure including, as applicable, engineering controls, work practices, respirators, housekeeping and protective clothing;

(D) The purpose, proper use, fitting instructions and limitations of respirators permitted by the standard; and

(E) A review of all the provisions contained in 1910.1001.

(5) *Respiratory protection during the ETS.* Notwithstanding any other requirement of this section, where respirators are used to achieve the permissible exposure limit of 0.5 f/cc they shall be selected according to Table 1.

(6) *Warning signs during the ETS.* In addition to the requirements of paragraph (g)(1) of this section, legible signs warning of the health hazards of asbestos shall be provided and displayed at each location where airborne concentrations of asbestos fibers may exceed 0.5 f/cc.

TABLE 1

Respiratory Protection

For Airborne Concentrations of Asbestos

Airborne Concentration of Asbestos (TWA)	Required Respirator
Not in excess of 5 f/cc (10 X PEL)	Reusable or single use air purifying respirator
Not in excess of 50 f/cc (100 X PEL)	Full facepiece air purifying respirator, or a powered air purifying respirator
Greater than 50 f/cc	A type "C" continuous flow or pressure demand, supplied air respirator.

1 Respirators specified for high concentrations may be used at lower concentrations of asbestos.

(Secs. 6(b), 6(c), 8(c) and 8(g), Pub. L. 91-596, 84 Stat. 1593, 1596, 1599, 1600; 29 U.S.C. 655, 657; Sec. 107, Pub. L. 91-54, 63 Stat. 96 [40

U.S.C. 333]; 29 CFR Part 1911, Secretary of Labor's Order No. 9-83 [48 FR 35736])

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