



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
BUSINESS AND DEFENSE SERVICES ADMINISTRATION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20230

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② Richards

February 12, 1969

Mr. D. A. Woodard  
Acting Director  
Marketing & Technical Services Division  
Property Management & Disposal Services  
General Services Administration  
Washington, D.C. 20405

NOT CORRESPONDENCE

Dear Mr. Woodard:

Accompanying my letter of February 3, 1969, were two copies each of company replies regarding the updating of the Purchase Specifications for Chrysotile and Amosite Asbestos.

Enclosed are two copies of comments on the updating of the Specifications from Johns-Manville. These comments had not been received when we sent the previous ones.

After your staff has an opportunity to conclude its review of the company comments regarding updating of the Specifications, we would like to discuss the matter with you before preparing the revised Specification.

Sincerely yours,

B. K. Slaughter  
B. K. Slaughter  
Assistant Director  
Office of Industrial Materials  
Industrial Mobilization

Enclosures

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**JOHNS-MANVILLE  
RESEARCH & ENGINEERING CENTER**

P. O. BOX 159 • MANVILLE, N. J. 08835 • TELEPHONE: 722-9000 • AREA CODE 201



January 30, 1969

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Mr. Carl A. Gnam  
Miscellaneous Metals and Minerals Division  
U. S. Department of Commerce  
Business and Defense Services Administration  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Mr. Gnam:

Your letter to Mr. J. A. Brown requesting an opinion related to National Stockpile Purchase Specifications P-3-R4 for chrysotile and P-4-R5 for amosite has been referred to the Asbestos Textile Institute and subsequently to our committee for reply.

The attached suggestions for stockpiling of chrysotile asbestos fibre are the result of a coordinated effort by Dr. Lewis Cralley, United States Public Health Service; E. M. Fenner, Johns-Manville; and myself.

If you require additional information, or if I can be of further assistance, please contact me.

Very truly yours,

*C. L. Sheckler*

C. L. Sheckler,  
Committee Chairman  
Asbestos Textile Institute

CLS/ems

Attach.

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MINERALS DIVISION

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January 1969

## STOCKPILING OF ASBESTOS FIBRE

### I. Packaging

Most of the chrysotile asbestos fibre supplied by Johns-Manville to United States customers is packaged in 2 to 5 ply pressure packed paper bags containing 100 lbs of fiber. It is our opinion that pressure packed paper bags are considerably cleaner than cloth for the following reasons:

- A. Paper bags can be and are airwashed before shipment.
- B. There is no fibre leakage through the surface of the bag.
- C. If spillage occurs, fibre can be vacuum cleaned from the surfaces of paper bags.
- D. Pressure packaging of chrysotile asbestos fibre compresses the fibre into a solid bun which is less dusty than loose fibre. These buns are rectangular in shape and lend themselves to safer and more efficient piling and storage.

We also ship some chrysotile asbestos fibre to the United States in 10 oz. pressure packed 100 lb. burlap bags. It has been our experience that pressure packaging of burlap bags has been advantageous in reducing dust as compared to loose fibre in burlap.

### II. Handling Procedures

Recommended health safety practices for handling chrysotile asbestos fibre are as follows:

- A. Workmen involved in the unloading, handling and storage of chrysotile asbestos should be made aware of the health risks, known or suspected and take protective measures to eliminate excessive exposure that may be injurious.
- B. Upon opening railroad cars, trucks or ship holds containing shipments of asbestos fibre, all loose fibre should be removed by vacuum cleaning prior to unloading. Workmen involved in the cleaning should wear Bureau of Mines approved respiratory equipment for pneumoconiosis producing dusts.
- C. During the unloading, no hooks should be used. Spillage should be vacuum cleaned immediately. Repack, resal or discard any broken bags to prevent distribution of loose fibre into other areas.
- D. If loose fibre has accumulated on adjacent bags during transit, they should be vacuum cleaned before palletizing and stockpiling.
- E. Transporting bags into the warehouse should be done in a manner that will not cause bag damage.

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11. Handling Procedures (Cont'd.)

- F. During storage, if bags are damaged by passing fork trucks or other causes, bags should be sealed and any spillage vacuum cleaned.
- G. If large quantities of spillage occur and cleaning involves sweeping and/or shoveling, Bureau of Mines approved type of respiratory equipment for pneumoconiosis producing dusts should be worn.

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