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AIA NORTH AMERICA ASBESTOS INFORMATION ASSOCIATION 1835 K Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006 (202) 223-4885

31 January 1977

C. C.

New OSHA Head Yet To Be Named -- At this writing, OSHA is without its top executive though, Eula Bingham, Ph.D. (zoology), Cincinnati University, is known to be new Secretary of Labor Ray Marshall's first choice to replace Morton Corn as Assistant Secretary of Labor (OSHA). Bert Conklin has been acting OSHA head since Corn's departure on Jan. 20.

Accompanying his resignation, Corn submitted lengthy and candid report to then Labor Secretary, W. J. Usery, Jr., outlining OSHA's successes, failures, lessons learned and unresolved issues. Corn emphasized OSHA "must be a professional health and safety agency," staffed and managed by professionals at all levels. He said, "there is almost an absolute absence of highly qualified technical personnel among the Washington staff and in the highest level field positions." In other comments Corn said many businessmen are not convinced of the need for many OSHA requirements, and it would be an error for the agency to impose new requirements by those who will be regulated. Use of information hearings at locations other than Washington should be expanded. "The period of emotional accusations and phony issues is over; it should not be resurrected by rapid action on the part of overzealous administrators of the agency," he stated. Regarding organized labor, he said while labor unions have assumed a watch-dog role for OSHA "only a very few ... have a level of expertise necessary to perform such a function." He stated, "It has been my experience that many criticisms of agency activity are superficial and upon closer scrutiny stem from bona fide but baseless fears of incorrect agency action." He called for incorporation of NIOSH into OSHA and continuance of inflationary impact statements in standards rulemaking process. Corn has returned to his position as Professor of Industrial Hygiene, University of Pittsburgh, Graduate School of Public Health.

OSHA Asbestos Standards -- Inflationary Impact Study on proposed revision to asbestos manufacturing standard to 0.5 f/cc as permissible worker exposure level is now not expected to be completed before end of April. CONSAD Research Corp. of Pittsburgh, contractor for study, is reported to being given a 90-day extension of time from Feb. 1 in order to include in its work analysis of feasibility of recent NIOSH recommendation of 0.1 f/cc standard (see separate article),comment on substitute materials, and monitor competency at levels of 0.5 f/cc and 0.1 f/cc. Clayton Environmental

Consultants of Southfield, MI, is subcontractor for technical analysis and measurement studies.

Research Triangle Institute of Research Triangle Park, N. C., missed today's initially-set deadline for completion to OSHA of engineering feasibility study and inflationary impact analysis for asbestos standard for construction industry. It is expected OSHA will give RTI an additional 30 days, perhaps more, to complete work under this contract.

AIA/NA expects Equitable Environmental Health, Inc., to complete its engineering feasibility study and inflationary impact analysis of an asbestos standard for the construction industry on schedule, April 1.

It is now more than 16 months since OSHA proposed to lower occupational exposure standard for asbestos dust from 2 f/cc to 0.5 f/cc. Public hearing on this issue is not likely before middle of this year. The position of the Association on this vital issue remains as submitted to OSHA in Apr. 1976, "Since there is no new evidence to indicate that the 2 f/cc TWA standard adopted in 1972 does not adequately protect the health of the working population, it would be grossly inequitable and a denial of due process to lower the standard at this time."

AIA/NA Response to NIOSH 0.1 f/cc Standard Recommendation -- Following are excerpts from AIA/NA statement regarding NIOSH "Re-examination and Up-date of Information on the Health Effects of Occupational Exposure to Asbestos," (N & N Dec. 76) which recommended lowering permissible occupational exposure level to asbestos dust to 0.1 f/cc:

. Studies cited in the NIOSH document do not define the levels of airborne asbestos dust to which individuals were exposed. The levels of exposure were most probably much higher than those now being experienced in the workplace. There is no evidence to support the proposition that the present OSHA standard for occupational exposure to asbestos -- viz 2 f/cc of air longer than 5 microns in an eight-hour time-weighted average with a ceiling limitation against any exposure in excess of 10 f/cc is not safe for exposed populations.

. Contrary to the NIOSH statement, state of the art and practical considerations rule out sampling and analytical functions at a 0.1 f/cc level -- the standard level recommended by NIOSH to OSHA -- by phase contrast microscopy at 400-450x magnification.

In separate letter to then OSHA Administrator, Dr. Morton Corn, Guy G. Gabrielson, Jr., chairman of Association's Asbestos Regulation Task Force, noted that the NIOSH document concedes that there is no scientific basis for the establishment of the particular exposure standard which it espouses and urged OSHA to continue past practice of consulting with all constituencies interested in the asbestos-health issue before taking action.

J-M / Asbestos Union Join in Cancer Research -- Johns-Manville Corp. and International Association of Heat and Frost Insulators and Asbestos Workers have each donated $250,000 to Mt. Sinai School of Medicine, New York City for research on early diagnosis and treatment of mesothelioma, a rare cancer disease frequently associated with asbestos. National Insulation Manufacturers Association, National Cancer Institute and American Cancer Society are also expected to contribute to program. In making award, John A. McKinney, president of J-M, said his company was taking preventive measures, "to see to it that workers of today and tommorrow are not subjected unreasonably to health hazards." Andrew T. Hass, president of IAHFI & AW, said joint grant represented what could be done, " in a spirit of labor management cooperation to reduce and ultimately eliminate the needless tragedy of job-related illnesses."

Nationalization of Asbestos Industry in Quebec -- In remarks to Economic Club of New York on Jan. 25, Quebec Premier Rene Levesque, who has frequently spoken of nationalizing the mining industry in his province said his government is now considering buying "a substantial interest" in Quebec's asbestos industry " at a fair price." He did not rule out nationalization of the asbestos industry in stating that he doesn't now see nationalization or direct takeover of business in the province with sole exception of the asbestos industry. Quebec is one of the world's largest asbestos producing areas. Most of its fiber is exported. Johns-Manville Corp., largest mining company in Quebec, stated it will reconsider previously announced $77 million capital expenditure at its Jeffrey Mine after the provincial government completes its study on nationalization of asbestos industry.

U.K. Asbestos Regulation -- In December the U.K. Health and Safety Executive issued a Guidance Note to clarify government's present asbestos hygiene regulations. Action was taken in view of extensive publicity in past few months on asbestos health issues. Government Advisory Committee on Asbestos, under Health and Safety Commission, has been charged with review of risks to health from asbestos and asbestos-containing products. Findings and recommendations of this body are expected early

this year. Meanwhile interim guidance from Health and Safety Executive states following criteria for compliance with asbestos regulations and Health and Safety at Work Act:" Exposure to all forms of asbestos dust should be reduced to the minimum that is reasonably practicable and in any case, occupational exposure to asbestos dust should never exceed 2 fibers m/l when measurements are averaged over a 4-hour period; short term exposure not to exceed 12 fibres / m/l when measured over 10- minute period. Regulation is for all types of asbestos except crocidolite where 0.2 fibre m/l measured over any 10-minute period is required. Fibres are defined as particles of length greater than 5 microns, diameter less than 3 microns and length to breadth ratio of at least 3:1 observed by transmitted light under phase contrast conditions at approximately 500x."

Health and Safety Commission's numerical standard is based on probability that risk of a person showing earliest demonstrable effects in lung due to asbestos would be reduced to less than 1% for an accumulated exposure of concentrations of 2 fibers per cm^3 for 50 years. No numerical relationships have been derived for bronchial cancer or mesothelioma but studies indicate mesothelioma may result from shorter duration and less dust concentration than required for asbestosis or bronchial cancer. Interim Statementby U.K.'s Advisory Committee on Asbestos is attached.

OSHA Announced Proposal for Carcinogen Classification -- For more than a year OSHA has labored over monumental task of timely program for developing standards for an estimated 1500 to 1600 substances found in workplaces having "some evidence" that they are cancer causing. A draft proposal of new policy which would classify carcinogens or suspected carcinogens on a generic rather than substance by substance basis was presented to Standards Subgroup of OSHA's National Advisory Committee on Occupational Safety and Health (NACOSH), Jan. 27. Classifications would include "confirmed" carcinogens, requiring an emergency standard within two months after classification and a permanent standard within another six months; and "suspect" carcinogens, which would involve rulemaking procedure but immediate record keeping, labeling and employee training as with "confirmed" carcinogens. Third classification would include suspected substances requiring more scientific data. New policy, outlined in over 200 - page document , could, subgroup was told, accelerate rulemaking on carcinogens by eliminating repetitive debate on "a number of issues that consistently arise which involve fairly intensive consideration of policy questions." Among basic considerations: a toxic material would be "confirmed" as a human carcinogen if producing cancer in mammalian test animals and, in such case, permissible exposure level for workers would be set at lowest feasible, detectable level or, in some cases, no exposure would be permitted.

Grover Wrenn, OSHA Health Standards Director, told subgroup perhaps 50 substances could be ready candidates for classification as "confirmed" carcinogens of which 17 including asbestos have already been named. NACOSH subgroup will hold discussions (first on Feb. 17) before reporting to full committee. Ultimate NACOSH recommendations will be considered by OSHA in decision to proceed or not proceed with proposed rulemaking on policy. According to Acting Asst. Secretary of Labor, (OSHA) Bert Conklin, process "could take as much as a year."

Proposed Rulemaking in Hazardous Materials Labeling -- An advanced notice of proposed rulemaking on development of proposal which would require employers to label hazardous materials was announced by OSHA in Federal Register Jan. 28. Action was based on recommendations of OSHA's Standards Advisory Committee on Hazardous Materials Labeling which began deliberations in Sept. 1974 and concluded stuies in June of last year. Labeling was considered the most immediate means of informing employees of the hazards of a particular material. Asbestos was identified as one of three materials "presenting special hazards." Labeling requirements in present OSHA asbestos standard were considered acceptable. In overall employee information program on hazardous materials, Committee recommended standardization in label language and symbols and preparation by employees of material safety data sheets to be used with employee information program of labels, placards and indoctrination sessions. Comments may be submitted by Mar. 29, to Docket Officer, OSHA Dept. of Labor, Washington, D. C. 20210. No date was given for announcing specific proposal. Advisory Committee report available from AIA/NA, OSHA headquarters or any OSHA regional office.

Inflation Impact Statements -- Before leaving office President Ford issued Executive Order 11949 extending requirement for federal agencies to prepare Inflation Impact Statements or Economic Impact statements as now called, on proposed regulations. Original order, 11821 of Nov. 21, 1974, was due to expire Dec. 31, 1976. AFL-CIO President George Meany said " President Ford has extended an Executive Order -- without publicity, disguised under a new title, and at virtually the last minute -- requiring inflationary impact statements for standard issued by OSHA. These statements, which place a dollar value on the lives and well-being of American workers, have repeatedly blocked rapid and equitable enforcement of OSHA." President Carter will be urged to rescind "this inhumane, anti-worker order," Meany stated. In OSHA policy paper to President Carter's transition team continuance of inflation or economic impact studies was recommended.

On Asbestos and Talc -- On Jan. 19 then Asst. Secretary of Labor (OSHA) Morton Corn advised OSHA field directors that in view of new information from NIOSH concerning tremolytic talc, OSHA Field Informational Memo. #74-92 was cancelled. FIM #74-92 on tremolite and talc had prescribed that only particle samples that appear to be fibrous having a maximum diameter of 3 microns of 5 or more to 1 length to width ratio would be considered asbestiform. Corn rescinded his predecessor's (John Stender) letter of Oct. 9,1974, which allowed R. T. Vanderbilt Co. to certify that firm's talc does not contain asbestos. Health Research Group, a Nader organization, in letter dated Dec. 13 to OSHA, NIOSH and Consumer Product Safety Commission charged that Vanderbilt had persuaded OSHA to change its definition of asbestos fiber so that it would not cover its talc in St. Lawrence County, N. H. (N&N Dec.) Vanderbilt had said its talc was free of asbestos. NIOSH argued that Vanderbilt workers were exposed to excess asbestos levels. Two government studies are nearing completion. NIOSH expects to issue final report on environmental study and morbidity among talc mine workers in two weeks. Study by National Bureau of Standards due Mar. 1 includes research on 80 talc samples from various locations in U.S.

Reserve Receives Favorable Ruling -- Three state District Court judges ruled today that Reserve Mining Company can dump taconite tailings on its chosen on-land site over protests of two state environmental agencies. Judges said State's denial of dumping permits was "unlawful, unreasonable and not supported by substantial evidence." Reserve has been ordered to cease discharge of taconite tailings into Lake Superior by July 7, 1977. Reserve had threatened to close its 3,200 worker plant at Silver Bay, Minn., unless its proposed on-land site was approved.

Meetings of Interest --

. . . Symposium on Occupational Respiratory Disease - Feb.21-23, Sheraton Hotel, Philadelphia, PA. Symposium will address current methods of evaluating occupational respiratory diseases on clinical and epidemiologic levels. Registration fee $200. (Dr. William Weiss, Program Director, Div. of Continuing Education, Hahnemann Medical College & Hospital, Philadelphia, PA 19102; (215) 448-8266.)

. . . Environmental Industry Conference - Feb. 23-25, Hyatt Regency Hotel, Washington, D. C. Theme of conference is "Economic Growth with Environmental Quality" sponsored by Environmental Industry Council under chairmanship of John S. Autry, J-M Corp. (Environmental Industry Council, 1825 K St., N.W., Washington, D. C. 20006; (202) 331-7706.)

. . . AIA/NA Board of Directors - Mar. 10, Stouffer's National Center Hotel, 2399 Jefferson Davis Hwy., Arlington, VA. commencing at 9:00 A.M. Additional information to follow by memorandum to members.

Suspected asbestos-illness victim has swollen glands and headaches

HOWELL TOWNSHIP — Swollen neck glands, headaches and poor breathing were among the symptoms described yesterday by the mother of one of the township school students suffering from what is suspected to be an asbestos-related illness.

"Parents have been blaming sicknesses on viruses and flues, but now they're realizing their children didn't have all the classic symptoms," said the mother, Irene Sarraf.

Irene Sarraf said her son, Joseph, who has been out of school since late October, was recovering well.

"He's improved a great deal," she said. "Whenever he's off from school, he starts getting better."

When her son's ailment was at its worst, she said, his neck glands were swollen, he suffered headaches and he had trouble breathing because of phlegm in his throat.

Mrs. Sarraf said special tests to determine if the illness is caused by asbestos would not be done as long as the boy was feeling well.

"If everything goes okay, the tests won't have to be done," she said.

Because of the boy's weakened condition, Mrs. Sarraf said, he had contracted mononucleosis.

Mrs. Sarraf said many parents have expressed concern that their children also were reacting to asbestos.

THE COURIER-NEWS
BRIDGEWATER, N.J.
JAN 5 1977

All Howell Schools Closing for 3rd Day

ASBURY PARK
EVENING PRESS
ASBURY PARK, N J
JAN 4 1977

HOWELL TOWNSHIP — Eight elementary schools here will remain closed tomorrow as state and local officials evaluate the results of tests to determine the seriousness of asbestos flaking from ceilings in four of the schools.

Two schools reopen for Howell students

By SUE EPSTEIN
and ROBIN AMSTER

About 900 of Howell Township's 3,500 elementary school children returned to their classrooms yesterday for the first time since the threat of asbestos poisoning forced the board of education to close all eight schools Sunday.

Meanwhile, workmen began tearing down the ceilings in the Aldrich, Taunton, Griebling and Ramtown schools yesterday as state officials met in Trenton to discuss the results of air quality tests performed Monday in Ramtown.

A spokesman for the Department of Environmental Protection said officials had been meeting since Wednesday night to examine the test results, which will not be made public until after a high-level meeting today.

Dr. Sidney Zaslavsky, superintendent of Howell Township's elementary school district, the largest in the state, said the 3,600 children still on forced vacation will probably return to classes next Thursday.

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"We hope to have all of the work done on the four schools by Wednesday, and the two schools with asbestos in their boiler rooms will be worked on over the weekend, hopefully," he said. "The architect has drawn up the plans for them and we'll have a contractor start the work as soon as possible."

STAR LEDGER
NEWARK, N J
JAN 7 1977

Zaslavsky said he is "not convinced" the asbestos flaking in the schools caused the upper-respiratory infection in 13-year-old Joseph Sarraf, a student at Ramtown School.

"The child is allergic anyway," he noted. "I don't see how the physician could say asbestos caused it (the illness). I'd like to see proof."

An Asbury Park doctor had earlier announced the boy's illness could have been caused by the asbestos flaking.

County Superintendent of Schools George Snow said 17 school districts reported the existence of "a suspicious material that may be asbestos in their buildings."

Snow said the majority of ceilings covered with the substance were not in classrooms, but in boiler rooms, pump rooms, gymnasiums, locker rooms, halls and supply or storage rooms.

However, there are a few classrooms with ceilings of the substance, Snow said. In Kinnelon the Kiel School reported eight classroom ceilings having the material, the most in the county, and the Stonybrook School, three.

According to Snow, however, "no emergency exists in any school in Morris County.

"There isn't one school in the county with a situation similar to the one in Howell Township where the classroom ceiling was low enough for students to jab or touch it and where the asbestos flaked off into the air," Snow said. "That's the critical issue and it does not exist here."

Asbestos fiber feared in air, 8 schools shut

TRENTON TIMES
TRENTON, N. J.
JAN 3 1977

CONFIDENTIAL- In Re: Bickham, et al. v. Met Life, et al.

THE RECORD
HACKENSACK, NEW JERSEY
JAN 7 1977

Trustees sure asbestos isn't immediate peril

Tulsa School Heads to Seek Out Asbestos

TULSA DAILY WORLD
TULSA, OK
JAN 9 1977

D.M. schools pass test on asbestos

DES MOINES TRIBUNE
DES MOINES, IA
JAN 2 1 1977

Hunt for asbestos

* * *

LI school ceilings to be checked

LONG ISLAND PRESS
JAMAICA, N Y
JAN 6 1977

No Asbestos Spray Coating in Use At School Buildings in Denver

THE DENVER POST
DENVER, COLORADO
JAN 6 1977

CONFIDENTIAL- In Re: Bickham, et al. v. Met Life, et al.

Asbestos Check Cancels Scare

SACRAMENTO BEE
SACRAMENTO, CA
JAN 6 1977

State Officials Say Asbestos No Danger

THE INDIANAPOLIS STAR
INDIANAPOLIS, IN

Nottingham asbestos ceilings safe

THE SYRACUSE HERALD-JNL
SYRACUSE, N. Y.
JAN 7 1977

No dangerous asbestos found in county schools

THE JERSEY JOURNAL
JERSEY CITY, N. J.
JAN 6 1977

Asbestos Is Reported No Problem in Local Schools

Parochial school check for asbestos

THE HERALD-NEWS
PASSAIC, N.J.
JAN 12 1977

THE GRAND RAPIDS PRESS
GRAND RAPIDS, MICH.
JAN 6 197

Asbestos not used in schools

SOUTH MIDDLESEX DAILY NEWS
FRAMINGHAM, MA
JAN 16 1977

Schools to Be Checked for Asbestos Ceilings

THE DECATUR HERALD
DECATUR, ILL.
JAN 6 1977

Tests to begin at 9 Seattle schools with asbestos-coated ceilings

THE SEATTLE TIMES
SEATTLE, WA
JAN 5 1977

No asbestos threat seen in Michigan

STATE JOURNAL
LANSING, MI.
JAN 12 197

Asbestos dust: Vandalism?

Students blamed for damaged school ceilings

By WILLIAM G. HOPKINS
Courier-Post Staff

Vandals ripping out ceilings may be the chief cause of asbestos dust in schools.

That's the opinion of the head of a Cherry Hill-based engineering and consulting firm that is testing ceiling samples from more than 60 schools in the state.

William Rossnagel, head of William Rossnagel and Associates, said that several ceilings ripped out in Howell Township, where his firm did the testing, were "obviously victimized by vandals."

He said that students knocked out chunks of the low ceilings, scattering much of their asbestos.

"IF I WERE A PRINCIPAL, I'd read the riot act to the students," he said.

Rossnagel said it may take another month to tell how many ceilings have to be replaced in schools throughout the state because of heavy asbestos content.

However, he believes that if a ceiling is not flaking, peeling or being vandalized, it's safe for the time being. In the meantime, he said, there is no need for any "wild emotional reaction."

A pediatrician earlier this month said that the inhalation of asbestos fibers might be responsible for a Howell Township school boy's respiratory illness. Since then, the phone at Rossnagel's laboratories on Route 70 has been ringing continuously.

Many calls are from school districts with requests for tests of the asbestos content of their ceilings.

FIVE TECHNICIANS, Rossnagel said, are spending much of their time analyzing the batches of ceiling samples that arrive daily in envelopes and packages.

Basically, there are three tests, ranging in price from about $90 to $200 and more, depending on the analysis requested.

The primary test consists of a microscopic examination to determine if a sample contains asbestos.

If it does, a second test, or x-ray analysis of the sample, is taken. This tells the type and amount of asbestos in the sample.

The third and most expensive test measures the asbestos content of the air in a school. Special filters with motorized attachments trap any asbestos fibers in the classrooms and corridors.

"This gives us the actual level of concentration," Rossnagel said.

The firm conducted extensive air filter tests in the Howell district.

Rossnagel's technicians don't use special clothing or masks for protection in the current tests. "It's only in really dirty areas, as some industries where you can't see a light bulb 30 feet away, that we wear protective gear," he said.

ROSSNAGEL, whose national testing firm also has offices in Atlanta, Ga., and Painesville, Ohio, said a person must inhale asbestos fibers over prolonged periods before they become injurious to health.

While not all asbestos fibers are considered carcinogenic, Rossnagel says "you're really walking on eggs" in some cases when it comes to determining whether a particular environment is dangerous.

The danger, he said, depends on the type and size of the asbestos particles. Some are so small they are absorbed in the bloodstream and later discharged. Others are large enough to be trapped in the nose and upper bronchial passages. It's the particles in the in-between size range (5 microns to 100 microns) that are the most dangerous. Rossnagel said. "They accumulate in the lower lung and can cause cancer of the lung in 15 to 20 years."

CONFIDENTIAL- In Re: Bickham, et al. v. Met Life, et al.

Lung Disease Is Reported In 600 at Electric Boat

PROVIDENCE, R.I., Jan. 9 (AP)—About 600 employees of General Dynamics' Electric Boat division plants have been found to have potentially serious lung diseases directly relating to their work with asbestos, The Providence Journal reported today.

Medical experts said that the findings had serious ramifications not just for the 20,000 present employees of the company's shipbuilding division, but for its 100,000 former employees as well.

A team of experts has conducted a series of clinics over the past two years on about 1,200 workers at Electric Boat, which employs 5,000 Rhode Islanders at each of its plants in North Kingstown and Groton, Conn., the report said.

Four doctors from Mount Sinai Hospital's College of Environmental Medicine in New York met with about 30 union officials in Groton yesterday to discuss the test results, according to the report.

"I'm upset to find out how widespread this type of problem is," one unidentified union official said in the newspaper report. "We had no idea how that many workers could be affected," he said.

The newspaper said that company spokesmen could not be reached for comment, but stated that the spokesmen have said in the past that Electric Boat had stopped using asbestos as a metal insulator early last year.

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THE NEW YORK TIMES
NEW YORK, N Y

JAN 10 1977

Asbestos Charge Dropped by OSHA

AC/LA 001651

By KRISTI VAUGHAN

GROTON — A federal attorney for the Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) said Tuesday charges and a $700 fine against the Electric Boat Division (EB) of General Dynamics for a serious violation of asbestos standards were dropped because there was a lack of sufficient evidence to support OSHA's citation.

An OSHA administrative law judge agreed to the dismissal of the asbestos charge in an order filed last week.

OSHA inspectors in early August found, among other things, that workers at the Groton plant were being exposed to high levels of asbestos. Inspectors also found a serious violation of welding standards because movable fire hazards were in the locality of welding and grinding operations.

Both violations carried a $700 penalty.

Citations were issued to the company in late August. The company contested the citations and in December reached an agreement with OSHA attorneys that there was a lack of sufficient evidence to support either serious claim. The asbestos citation was dropped and the welding citation reduced to non-serious status.

James Craddock, attorney for OSHA in Boston, said Tuesday he is still awaiting a decision on two non-serious health and safety violations uncovered at the Groton plant by inspectors in April 1976.

Craddock said EB was issued a citation and $90 penalty for welding in enclosed spaces where toxic coatings were in the area of the welding.

The second violation, which did not carry a penalty, was issued because inspectors found a section of railing missing from the wing wall of a dry-dock.

The company has contested the citations and the case was heard in October

THE HARTFORD COURANT
HARTFORD, CT

JAN 12 1977

School officials: Asbestos present, but no danger

THE JOURNAL-NEWS
NYACK, N Y
JAN 12 1977

Asbestos in Industry Has Wide Application

Asbestos, as just about every school-age child knows, is that magic cloth that won't burn no matter how many matches are applied to it.

It's been used by magicians throughout history to create sensational illusions. Charlemagne, as legend tells it, was even supposed to have an asbestos tablecloth that was cleaned by putting a torch to it.

In the real world, asbestos is used in industrial and commercial construction, roofing, sealants, friction substances, and flooring material.

At one time, asbestos posed a health hazard to those who worked with it extensively. Long periods of inhaling unsafe quantities led to asbestosis, an ailment of the respiratory system similar to what scientists have proven smoking cigarettes over a long period can cause.

But for the homeowner, there appears to be no danger of even mild cases of asbestosis because of the way it is packaged.

The only real concern these days is in industiral and commercial uses where large quantities of asbestos materials might be used.

One problem arose after World War II when manufacturers put an asbestos spray coating that served as an acoustical buffer and fire preventative on the market, according to Edmund Fenner, director of Environmental Services for Johns Manville, Denver, a major supplier of asbestos products in the country.

"The problem was that it was being improperly installed," said Fenner. "It was improperly applied and fibers were released into the air."

It was that type of spray coating that was applied to the ceiling in the Ramtown Elementary School, Howell Township, where at least one physician suspects a 13-year-old student may have breathed unsafe quantities, causing irritation of the upper respiratory system.

There is no proof the student suffered from inhaling asbestos fibers in the air, but the physician, Dr. Michael R. Quatrella, Asbury Park, said yesterday the student has improved since he has not been attending school.

In the meantime, scientists are trying to determine how much, if any, asbestos fibers are present in the school and three other schools in Howell.

"As I understand the Howell problem, the coating started to flake," Fenner said. "This happened more than once because the people who applied it didn't know how to seal it properly."

The product, which has been discontinued, reached its peak in the 1950s, Fenner said, and was phased out by the industry in the early 1970s.

Asbestos is actually a mineral and takes its name from the Greek compound word signifying incombustible.

About 95 per cent of the asbestos used in the country is of the type called chrysotile and is imported from Canada. In its natural state, asbestos is quarried because it is as dense as a rock.

In manufacturing, asbestos is formed by crushing the rock-like substance into a mass of tiny fibers.

Fenner said asbestos is used in at least 3,000 products nationally, but they can be lumped into seven basic categories. They are:

JAN 4 1977

— Industrial and commercial interior siding, residential siding and piping.

— Roofing felts for commercial and industrial construction.

— Sealants, coatings, such as automobile undercoatings.

— Textiles, although the use of asbestos in textiles is slowly being phased out.

— Floor tiles.

— Resiliant sheet flooring, more commonly known as linoleum.

Fenner said asbestos is not used for ceiling tiles, except in the case of professional soundproofing materials for radio stations.

In virtually all cases, he said, the packaging makes it difficult for fibers to escape into the air.

For example, he said the fibers in asbestos floor tile could not be released because the tiles are cut with a knife or a shear and not a sawing action.

"I would strongly recommend that anyone who cuts asbestos material with a saw make sure that the saw has proper dust collecting equipment," he said. "The asbestos in today's products are locked into the product so that only physical energy can release any fibers."

One common use is in disc and drum brake linings. However, Fenner said studies have shown that the amount of fiber released into the air, caused by extreme heat produced by the braking action, is within accepted government safety standards.

As far as the local case is concerned, Quatrella said the negative chest X-ray of the student indicates there are no lethal doses of fiber in the schools.

ASBURY PARK
EVENING PRESS
ASBURY PARK, N J

Asbestos publicity ends trial

A federal judge, concerned over publicity generated by the shutdown of Howell Township schools because of asbestos-related health dangers, declared a mistrial in the case of a wrecking company accused of asbestos pollution.

U.S. District Court Judge Frederick B. Lacey ruled that news stories about the asbestos problems could have unfairly influenced the outcome of the trial.

The trial involved the D and V Wrecking Co. of Sayreville, which allegedly violated federal air pollution laws by allowing asbestos dust to enter the air during the demolition of industrial buildings in Kearny last year.

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"This Howell Township situation couldn't have occurred at a worse time from the point of view of the parties to this case," Lacey said. "And given the headlines that this Howell Township situation has received, and only after a lot of balancing in my own mind, I decided that I would grant the motion for mistrial."

A new trial is slated to begin on March 1 in U.S. District Court in Newark.

STAR LEDGER
NEWARK, N J
JAN 8 1977

CONFIDENTIAL- In Re: Bickham, et al. v. Met Life, et al.

AC/LA 001652

Byrne Discounts Asbestos Peril

By ALFONSO A. NARVAEZ
Special to The New York Times

TRENTON, Jan. 7—Governor Byrne and other New Jersey officials said today that while asbestos materials flaking from the ceilings of schools and other buildings posed a potential health hazard and should be removed, people exposed to the fibers for relatively short periods of time should not be alarmed.

They added, however, that there was a possibility that smoking or a respiratory ailment could adversely affect people who were exposed to the fibers, but that the problem might not show up for 15 or 20 years.

The Governor said Federal officials would be asked to close a gap in the clean air standards that permit the use of asbestos materials for decorative purposes in buildings. He said the state would also impose such a ban.

"We must recognize the potential danger of sprayed-on asbestos," the Governor said at a joint news conference with Health Commissioner Joanne Finley, Education Commissioner Fred G. Burke and Environmental Protection Commissioner David J. Bardin.

Commissioner Burke said 264 schools across the state had reported that there were some areas of their buildings that contained asbestos materials either as ceiling coatings or as insulation around pipes. He said there was no immediate indication as to how many of the ceilings coated with the material could be reached by children with yardsticks or how many were deteriorating and flaking off. Further studies will be made to determine which schools have potentially serious problems.

The potential danger of asbestos coating arose after a respiratory ailment of a Howell Township youngster. His pediatrician reported that the ailment could have been caused by asbestos fibers flaking from the ceiling of his school.

Air quality tests made at the Ramtown School, which the youngster attended, showed the presence of asbestos fibers in the air of corridors and classrooms, but at levels that were below Federal standards for exposure in occupational conditions.

The asbestos coatings on the ceilings of six Howell Township schools are being removed.

N.Y. Times Jan 7, 1977

CONFIDENTIAL- In Re: Bickham, et al. v. Met Life, et al.

Fiber risks aired

Calling the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health's recommendation for drastic cuts in workplace asbestos exposure levels "arbitrary, negligent and untenable," Paul Kotin, Johns-Manville senior vice-president for environmental health and safety, urged retention of the current standard. NIOSH's findings, he said last week, are "moot and a fiction."

A NIOSH report made in response to a request by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, proposes that eight-hour exposure levels of airborne asbestos be cut from the current standard of 2 fibers/cu. cm. to 0.1, the lowest level that can be effectively monitored. "Nothing would be a safe exposure level," noted a NIOSH official, citing reports by British scientists linking asbestos exposure to cases of lung cancer among miners and chemical plant workers.

Peak concentrations recommended by NIOSH would be cut to 0.5 fiber/cu. cm. based on 15-minute sampling periods.

The Industrial Heating Equipment Assn. says its members are looking for suitable alternatives to replace asbestos as a fireproof piping and insulation material. As a friction device in automobile and airplane brake linings, however, it has no known substitute, claims CertainTeed, a manufacturer of asbestos products.

Next spring OSHA will also determine whether any of more than 80 types of talc mined in the U.S. are contaminated with asbestos fibers. The agency ordered the National Bureau of Standards to report on the talc contents by March 1. The outcome will influence OSHA's decision as to whether R.T. Vanderbilt Co. (Norwalk, Conn.) should be required to comply with asbestos regulations.

Ralph Nader's Health Research Group has charged Vanderbilt with improperly obtaining an exemption from the standard for its tremolite-containing talc. Although the company claims that tremolite is not an asbestos, other experts in the field say the fibrous form does meet the definition.

CHEMICAL WEEK JAN 5 1977

EB's Doctors Find Lower Asbestos Rate

By KRISTI VAUGHAN

GROTON — A medical team hired by Electric Board division (EB) of General Dynamics to examine workers for exposure to asbestos found a substantially lower percentage of workers harmed by asbestos than did a medical team hired by the firm's major labor union.

The team hired by EB reported only those cases which were classified as serious.

The EB-hired team from the Boston University School of Medicine, in findings released Wednesday, state that only eight to 10 of the 125 workers they examined show evidence of asbestosis, Dr. Edward Gaensler, head of the team, said.

A medical team from Mr. Sinai Hospital, New York City, headed by Dr. Irving Selikoff, examined 1,000 workers in April and May 1976 and found about half have some lung abnormality.

The Mt. Sinai team examined workers at the request of the Metal Trades Council, the major EB union.

Gaensler said although figures are higher for individuals whose X-rays show they have had exposure to asbestos, he reports only those cases which can be classified as serious.

The Boston University team examined 125 workers in February 1976 and found only 6 to 8 per cent of the workers with evidence of asbestosis, a chronic lung inflammation caused by exposure to asbestos.

The Boston team was hired by the company to examine pipefitters and pipelaggers, two groups who in the past have come in direct contact with asbestos.

Dr. Henry Anderson, a member of the Mt. Sinai team, said the most probable reason for the difference in the results is "the majority we saw would not be classified as having compensatory asbestosis."

EB stopped using asbestos, primarily as pipe insulation, two years ago. Fiberglass has been substituted.

Figures on what percentage of the workers examined by the Mt. Sinai team are in serious condition because of asbestos exposure will not be available until after all the workers have been notified by mail of their condition. All workers are expected to be notified by the end of February.

"For the majority we saw there is minimal damage. There is definite scarring but it is not causing great difficulty in breathing," Anderson said.

Anderson said the Mt. Sinai team has no plans to return to the Groton shipyard and examine more workers. He said, however if they return, there is a possibility wives and children of EB workers also will be examined. The families can be exposed to asbestos because of the dust that remains on a worker's clothes after he has left the plant, Anderson said.

The Boston University team will be examining about 125 pipefitters and pipelaggers in February.

THE HARTFORD COURANT HARTFORD, CT JAN 13 1977

Replacement of confusion with fact in the field of particulate mineralogy is the goal of a new US Bureau of Mines research unit established at the College Park, Md., Metallurgy Research Center. Studies will focus on microscopic mineral particles, using disciplines that can clearly identify potentially harmful substances, such as asbestos, and distinguish them from thousands of other mineral particles. USBM director Thomas V. Falkie said the bureau's recognized expertise will be used to help clarify a situation with environmental and health implications that so far has been characterized more by confusion and ambiguity than by reason and fact.

Asbestos is the best-known environmental question mark in particulate mineralogy, Dr. Falkie said, but "the entire field has been riddled by the extreme lack of precision with which the term 'asbestos' has been used." In many instances, nonasbestos mineral particles have been mistaken for microscopic fibers of related asbestos minerals. The new research unit's job is to develop a solid scientific basis for research into particle-related pollution problems and for the decision-making process of regulatory bodies—a replacement of misinformation with fact.

Asbestos fibers have been designated a hazardous air pollutant by the Environmental Protecuon Agency, but Dr. Falkie points out there are many unanswered questions and conflicting reports about the nature of the possible hazard. Little or nothing is known about the environmental effects of dusts containing particles that are known not to be asbestos (because of their mineralogical structure), but that are similar in chemical composition to the asbestos minerals. Such minerals are known as "non-asbestos analogs" of the true asbestos forms. A major activity of the research unit will be to characterize morphological, compositional, and structural distinctions between such asbestos and nonasbestos particles, using sophisticated analytical techniques. The group will not conduct medical studies nor attempt to define health effects of specific mineral particles. Organizations interested in USBM's particulate program may contact Dr. W. J. Campbell, Program Coordinator, Particulate Mineralogy Unit, College Park, Md. 20740; telephone (301) 344-4014.

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DEC 1978

Asbestos Company and Union Fund Cancer Research

By JANE E. BRODY

In an unusual display of cooperation over an ordinarily divisive issue, labor and industry jointly awarded half a million dollars yesterday to Mount Sinai Medical Center here to finance an attempt to find a cure to an occupationally caused cancer.

The cancer, mesothelioma, affects the lining of the chest or abdominal cavity and has thus far proved invariably fatal, usually within months of diagnosis. More than 85 percent of cases are known to be caused by exposure to asbestos fibers.

Currently, about 7 percant of deaths among asbestos workers are a result of mesothelioma, Dr. Irving J. Selikoff told a news conference at Mount Sinai. Because of past exposure to excessive levels of asbestos on the job, another 70,000 workers could die of mesothelioma in the next four decades, Dr. Selikoff added.

Although it is too late to prevent these cases from occurring, it may be possible to develop a means of detecting the cancer early and treating it effectively, said the doctor, who is director of environmental medicine at Mount Sinai.

To deal with this growing problem, the 18,000 members of the international asbestos workers union and the Johns-Manville Corporation, which employs 26,000 in 110 asbestos plants in the United States and Canada, announced that they were each donating $250,000 to start a research program at Mount Sinai to find an effective treatment and means of early diagnosis for mesothelioma.

The National Insulation Manufacturers Association, a large trade association, is expected to donate further funds to this effort, which will also be supported in part by the National Cancer Institute and the American Cancer Society.

Dr. Selikoff said that from 1930, when mesothelioma was first discovered, to 1960, only three patients with the disease were seen at Mount Sinai. "Now we can see that many cases in a week," he added.

Because the cancer does not develop until 15 or more years after asbestos exposure began, the cases being seen now reflect the uncontrolled industrial exposure to asbestos in decades past.

In addition to asbestos workers, in recent years an increasing number of mesothelioma cases have occurred in men who were exposed to asbestos while working in the shipyards in World War II and in people who lived in the same household as asbestos workers, who often brought the deadly fibers home on their clothing.

The disease is otherwise extremely rare in the general population. Since it became listed only last yea as a separate entry in cancer registries, it is not yet known how many cases of mesothelioma occur each year. Asbestos was established as a cause of cancer more than two decades ago. The fibers also causes lung cancer and cancer of the gastrointestinal tract.

The research effort at Mount Sinai will be codirected by Dr. Selikoff and Dr. James F. Holland, a leading cancer therapist.

Dr. Holland said that he would be testing several drugs, either alone or in combination with surgery and radiation therapy, that have shown some promise in treating mesothelioma. The therapies would be tested in animals as well as patients, he said.

Large Group to Be Studied

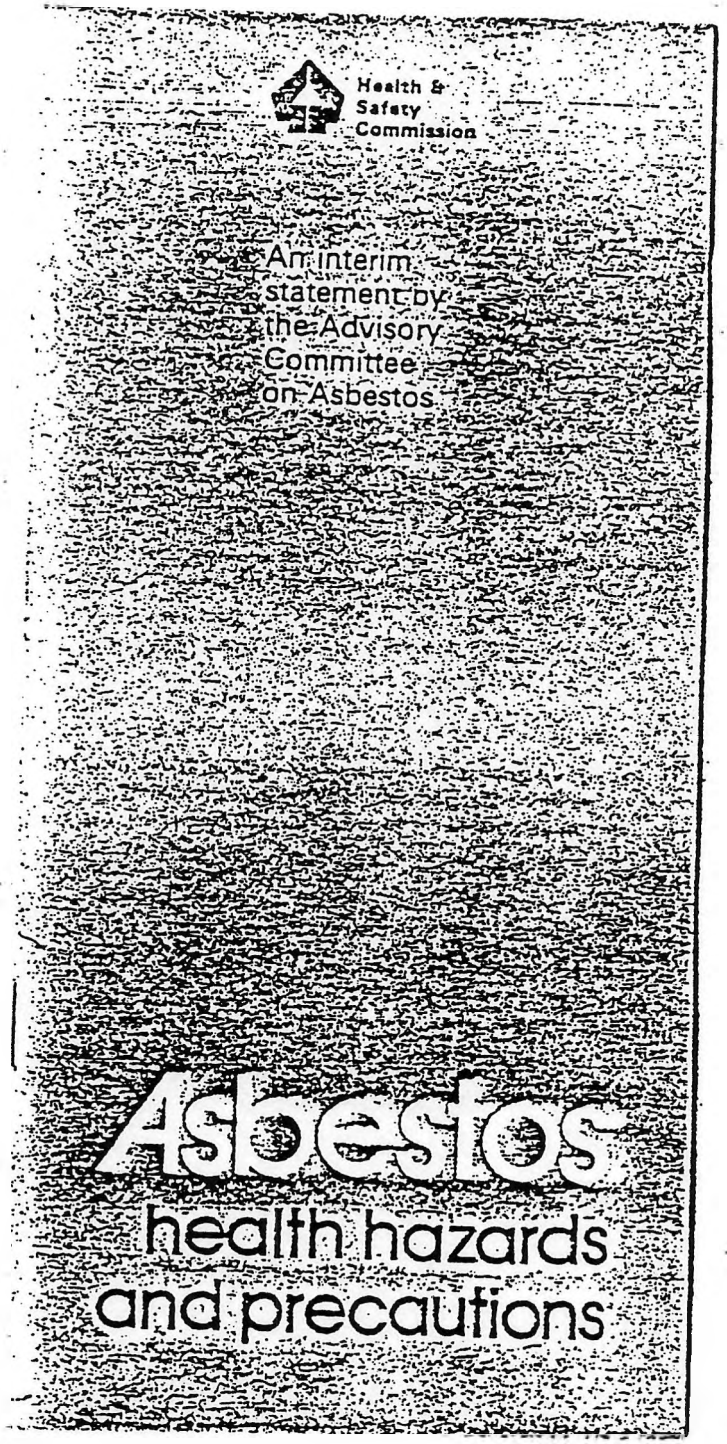
In addition, Dr. Holland said, a study will be made of a large group of asbestos workers to determine whether any characteristics, such as biochemical, psychological, endocrinological or immunological factors might predispose some workers to mesothelioma. If predictive factors can be identified, workers with those characteristics could be followed closely so that if mesothelioma developed, it would be caught in its earliest, and presumably most curable, stage.

In making the award to Mount Sinai, John A. McKinney, president of Johns-Manville, said that his company was taking preventive measures "to see to it that the workers of today and tomorrow are not subjected unreasonably to health hazards."

Andrew T. Hass, president of the International Association of Heat and Frost Insulators and Asbestos Workers, said that the grant rfomhis union and Johns-Manville represented what could be done "in a spirit of labor-management cooperation, to reduce and ultimately eliminate the needless tragedy of job-related illness."

New York Times
June 7, 1977

CONFIDENTIAL- In Re: Bickham, et al. v. Met Life, et al.



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Introduction

1 When announcing the membership of the Advisory Committee on Asbestos in the House of Commons on 18 May 1976, the Secretary of State for Employment, Mr Albert Booth, said:

"I have also asked the Chairman that if the Committee considers that there are any recommendations which it feels ought to be made in advance of its final report, interim reports should be submitted to the Health and Safety Commission on these aspects of its work so that the public may be kept informed of its progress."

The Committee is aware of the widespread public anxiety and uncertainty about the health risks from asbestos. Although the Committee is not yet in a position to submit a definitive final report, its members feel that there is a need for a short interim statement to put the risks from asbestos in perspective, in the light of present knowledge.

2 In issuing this statement, the Committee emphasises that there are a number of topics which will have to be investigated further before it can offer definite recommendations. These topics are:

(a) the ingestion of asbestos (for example, the intake of asbestos into the body through food and drink);

(b) dose-response relationships for various diseases;

(c) asbestos waste disposal;

(d) asbestos in the general environment;

(e) the substitution of safe or less hazardous substances for asbestos.

Description of materials

3 Asbestos is the common name given to a number of naturally-occurring, inorganic silicates, with complex compositions and fibrous, crystalline structure. There are four main types namely:

(a) Chrysotile (known as 'white asbestos'): a fine, silky, flexible, white to grey/green fibre;

(b) Amosite (known as 'brown asbestos'): a straight, brittle fibre, light grey to pale brown;

(c) Crocidolite (known as 'blue asbestos'): a straight, flexible, blue fibre; and

(d) Anthophyllite: a brittle, white to brown fibre.

4 It is usually difficult to determine which form of asbestos is present in a manufactured product from its colour. The only certain method is to have the material analysed by specialist techniques such as X-ray diffraction or microscopy.

Use of asbestos

5 Asbestos is extremely widely used because of its properties of resisting heat, providing electrical insulation and imparting strength to other materials when used as a reinforcement.

6 By far the commonest type of asbestos is chrysotile. Importation of raw crocidolite (blue asbestos) ceased in 1970. However, some finished products containing blue asbestos are still believed to be imported and it is still present in existing buildings and other places where it has been applied in the past.

7 The majority of the asbestos imported into Britain is used in building materials, such as asbestos cement sheeting and pipes for sewage and water distribution, and insulation boards. The remainder is found in a variety of products for industrial use (such as gaskets, brake linings, fan blades and protective clothing) and for domestic use (such as ironing boards and electrical products).

Health hazards

8 If asbestos dust is inhaled, fine particles which are too small to be seen by the naked eye are deposited in the lungs. These may cause damage. However, (subject to paragraph 2(a)), materials containing asbestos present a hazard only when asbestos fibres are released and dispersed so that they can be inhaled.

9 Whether dust is produced from the manufacture or use of products containing asbestos depends on

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the processes involved and the nature of the particular product. Most manufacturing processes will create some dust unless they are carried out wet. Similarly, mechanical operations such as the sawing, drilling or abrading of asbestos products will create dust – more dust is created by mechanical power than by the use of hand tools. The quantity of dust produced will also depend on the amount of asbestos in the product and the nature of the other components. Some asbestos products, particularly those with little binding material, may shed asbestos fibres as they deteriorate with age – e.g. sprayed asbestos insulation. This process is accelerated by mechanical damage. On the other hand, products such as asbestos cement sheets are very unlikely to create dust except when they are being worked. Most demolition processes, where asbestos-based products are being removed, are likely to give off considerable amounts of dust.

10 The medical effects of inhaling asbestos dust are:

Asbestosis. This is a fibrotic (thickening and scarring) condition of the lungs which mostly occurs after many years of exposure to high concentrations of asbestos dust. The disease may manifest itself some years after occupational exposure has ceased. The degree of risk of developing asbestosis appears to be related to the duration and level of the exposure to asbestos dust. The characteristic symptom of asbestosis is a progressive breathlessness and an unproductive cough. Thickening of the surface of the lung is also sometimes seen in those exposed to asbestos. Of itself it is not a cause of much disability. Calcification of this pleural thickening (i.e. deposits of calcium readily visible in X-ray) occurs after many years in a few people.

Cancer of bronchus or lung. It has been shown that there is an increased incidence of this disease in people who already have asbestosis. It is not yet certain if asbestos can contribute to cancer of the lung when asbestosis is not already present. It has, however been shown that the combined risk of lung cancer from exposure to asbestos dust and from cigarette smoking is larger than the sum of the two risks separately and, therefore, cigarette smoking is more than ordinarily dangerous for someone who works with asbestos dust.

Mesothelioma. This is a tumour of the lining of the chest, or in some cases of the lining of the abdominal cavity, which is rare in comparison to other cancers in the general population (236 new cases of mesothelioma were reported in 1974). While usually associated with heavy and prolonged exposure to blue asbestos (crocidolite) it has sometimes occurred among people exposed much less extensively. Mesothelioma has also been associated with exposure to other forms of asbestos, but the risk is thought to be greater for crocidolite and amosite than for chrysotile. There is usually a long interval between first exposure and the development of this tumour. Some cases of mesothelioma have occurred for which no exposure to asbestos has been traced. Such cases may have other causes.

Minimising exposure to asbestos dust

11 A qualitative relationship between the amount of exposure and the occurrence of disease has been established for asbestosis, asbestos-related bronchial cancer and (on rather less good evidence) mesothelioma. In the case of mesothelioma the exposure may be short and probably of lower concentration than that required to produce asbestosis or bronchial cancer. The quantitative aspects of the dose-response relationship are being urgently reviewed and will be reported on later by the Advisory Committee. In the interim, the Committee recommends that great care be taken in the use of asbestos and materials containing it. More precisely, it recommends that:

(a) exposure to all forms of asbestos dust should be reduced to the minimum reasonably practicable;

(b) in any case, occupational exposure to asbestos dust should never exceed:

for crocidolite 0.2 fibres per millilitre when measured over a 10-minute period;

for other types of asbestos 2 fibres per millilitre when measurements are averaged over a 4-hour period; short-term exposure should not exceed 12 fibres per millilitre when measured over any 10-minute period.

Control measures

Asbestos in the workplace and in construction and shipbuilding operations

12 The following principles of control should be observed to minimise the risks:

(a) The creation of dust containing asbestos should be avoided. When it is impossible to avoid creating asbestos dust, it should be controlled by means of enclosure or local exhaust ventilation. Where these methods are impracticable, respiratory protective equipment and protective clothing should be provided and used. The protective clothing should be laundered under special arrangements and should not be taken home. In any event, strict regard should be paid by both employers and employees to the necessary precautionary measures and the relevant legislation.

(b) These principles should also be applied to work with asbestos-based products in construction operations and shipbuilding. However, the Committee recognises that some processes will inevitably create some dust and where the work is of a short term nature, the provision of local exhaust ventilation may be impracticable. In such circumstances dust concentrations can be significantly reduced by the use of hand tools instead of power tools.

(c) A very high standard of precautions should be observed in the removal of thermal insulation containing asbestos (de-lagging) and sprayed asbestos coatings (as for example, during demolition and shipbreaking operations). These precautions should include complete segregation of the working area and thorough soaking of the insulation with water or wet steam. In addition, workers should be provided with, and wear, full protective equipment.

(d) Safe methods of disposal should be used. Dust and waste should be put into impermeable containers which are then tightly sealed. Guidance on the precautions to be taken when asbestos waste is produced or disposed of is given in the Code of Practice for Handling and Disposal of Asbestos Waste Materials produced by the Asbestosis Research Council.

(e) The risk of getting lung cancer from inhaling asbestos is many times more serious if one smokes cigarettes. Smoking should be avoided by anyone who is exposed to asbestos dust regularly.

Asbestos in existing buildings

13 Present evidence suggests that dangers from asbestos in buildings are likely to arise only when products containing asbestos are damaged, either accidentally or during maintenance or repair, and the asbestos fibres are released and dispersed in the air. Where friable materials, e.g. sprayed asbestos insulation, have become or could become damaged, they should be either removed or protected by a suitable coating or covering. The disadvantage of the second solution is that the problem can recur if the coating or covering becomes damaged or deteriorates. On the other hand, during the period of removal of asbestos materials incorporated in buildings, dust levels will usually be generated higher than those that will occur if the asbestos materials are left undisturbed, so in many cases the second solution will be preferable. The balance of advantage will vary from building to building.

Asbestos in domestic products

14 The main non-commercial use of asbestos is in do-it-yourself building materials. There are also some domestic products which contain asbestos, such as some pieces of electrical equipment. There is little risk of fibres being dispersed from domestic products in normal use provided they are in good condition. In using do-it-yourself materials containing asbestos the following principles should be observed to minimise the risk:

(a) Avoid creating dust. Use hand tools instead of power tools. Keep the work damp as far as possible.

(b) If it is impossible to avoid creating dust, use a damp cloth to clean up so that the dust is not inhaled. If possible, do the work outside or in a well ventilated space, and work upwind of the source of the dust and away from bystanders.

(c) Cloths used for cleaning up should not be simply left to dry out. Wash them thoroughly or (better still) dispose of them properly while still damp, by sealing in plastic bags.

It is also wise to seek advice before disturbing or fixing asbestos roof insulation material or asbestos in central heating systems.

Labelling of asbestos products

15 Under a voluntary agreement with manufacturers, all asbestos products for use at work, manufactured after October 1976, which are liable under any foreseeable circumstances to create asbestos dust, and all asbestos-based consumer products, will be labelled so that they can be easily identified.

Further information

16 Further information and advice on the possible hazards of asbestos and how to avoid them can be obtained as follows:

Asbestos at work	local offices of the Health and Safety Executive (A new Guidance Note on asbestos dust is soon to be produced)
Asbestos in the home	Local Authority Environmental Health Departments
Asbestos in consumer products	Department of Prices and Consumer Protection (Consumer Safety Unit)
Asbestos in buildings:	
substitute products and remedial measures	Building Research Establishment
In relation to building regulations	Department of the Environment (Building Regulations Division) in England and Wales; Scottish Development Department in Scotland
Asbestos waste disposal	Local Authorities or the Department of the Environment (Directorate of Noise, Clean Air and Wastes (Waste Disposal)).

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