

to handle the suggested Raybestos procedures. One suggested that these be forwarded to the Asbestos Information Association to be included in their recommended work practices for OSHA. Another suggestion was for this to be distributed to our members for their distribution to their customers. It is considered likely that when the revised OSHA standards come out that the suggested work practices will not be included. There does not appear to be any action that this Committee can take at this time as regards work practices except for the suggested practices in the Brake service centers.

The OSHA Regulations and the Membrane Filter Method for Measurement

Originally this subject was to be two items on this agenda: (1) The Membrane Filter Method for measuring airborne asbestos concentrations, (2) The OSHA standards with emphasis on the July 1, 1976 two fibers/cc limit. In discussing these subjects it was found difficult to separate the membrane filter technique from the OSHA standards. They are being combined for purposes of these minutes.

It was suggested that with the current economic climate that perhaps there might be some de-emphasis in OSHA regulations. There has been de-emphasis on seat belts, and bumpers, emissions control and it was suggested that perhaps OSHA might ease off on their regulations. One Committee member said that it was most unlikely that there would be any backtracking on the OSHA regulations. If anything they might be stiffened. One member stated that there were five different types of asbestos and that some were more harmful than others. It was suggested that while this might be so, all asbestos is apparently linked with lung cancer and asbestosis. It would be difficult to win an argument that there are some types of asbestos that are not harmful to the respiratory tract.

At this point the method for counting fibers was discussed. It was stated by one member that originally a fiber would not be counted if it was not totally within the field. This was from a Johns-Manville course on the use of the membrane filter technique. It was stated now that anything that is in the top or the left hand borders of the sample, even if only partly in the field, are to be counted. Another member indicated that when he took the NIOSH course at Cincinnati that this was the way that he was told to count: any fiber on the left hand or top border, even if not fully within the field being counted, would be counted in that field.

It was stated that the crystallization of the solvent used on the slide could sometimes make it appear to be an asbestos fiber. There is a method of preparing the slides so that the formation of crystals will not appear similar to asbestos fibers for counting purposes. This method is apparently used by most companies doing their own counting of the fibers. It was pointed out also that slides should not be re-used. Re-used slides may accelerate crystallization of the solvent.

It was stated there is as much variation in readings of fiber count as there are people making readings. One member suggested that he used the NIOSH manual as a Bible. It was stated that this manual was subject to wide interpretation. A member indicated that he exchanged samples with NIOSH in Cincinnati and has had decent correlation with their counts. It was stated that on the lower counts that three different readings would come out plus or minus 10% on the count. However, when higher counts were read, the