

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

Health Services and Mental Health Administration
National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health
1014 Broadway, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

TO : Assistant Director, NIOSH
for Research and Standards Development

FROM : Acting Deputy Director
Division of Laboratories and Criteria Development

SUBJECT: Asbestos Criteria

DATE: November 12, 1971

The 12 fiber/cc equivalent to 2 mppcf relationship obtained in textile mills should not be applied to other product areas. Estimates of risk of disease in other product areas should be based on fiber counts since this method yields a more direct estimate of airborne asbestos concentration.

American Industrial Hygiene Association Journal: September-October 1970

"The early epidemiologic data on asbestos were based on the impinger method and, until the beginning of the present study, most sampling in the United States was done by this method, since only in this way could the exposure be evaluated against the threshold limit value (TLV) of 5 million particles per cubic foot (mppcf).^{4,5} Consequently, it is necessary to develop ratios between present methods of measurement and impinger counts performed in the traditional manner so that the results that would have been obtained years ago had present methods been used might be predicted."

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Jeremiah R. Lynch
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"The use of K factor of air has been ~~undisputed~~ suggested as a method for related ~~ventilation~~ sampling techniques. The use of this factor is largely ~~controversial~~ and additional data must be collected before a ~~decision~~ can be made if it is possible to convert old impinger data to ~~current~~ fiber counts/m³. As a result environmental data collected and reported prior to 19 ~~when use of fiber/ml was suggested~~ is of little value when it is ~~attempting~~ to relate long term ~~medical changes~~ to environmental data."

MEMORANDUM

Doc. Control #871
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE
HEALTH SERVICES AND MENTAL HEALTH ADMINISTRATION
National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health

TO : See Below

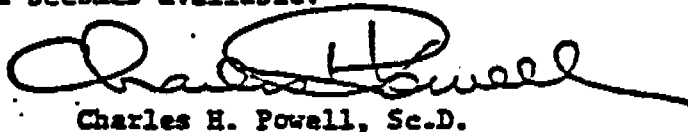
DATE: November 15, 1971

FROM : Assistant Director, NIOSH
for Research and Standards Development

SUBJECT: Asbestos Criteria Document

NIOSH has been working for sometime on the development of a criteria document to protect the workers from exposure to asbestos. New research information has become available which must be considered for inclusion in our recommended criteria for an asbestos standard. Recent interest in the development of mesothelioma as well as other diseases related to asbestos exposure has pointed out the seriousness of exposures to asbestos. AFL-CIO as well as others have expressed their interest and concern to the Secretary of the Department of Labor concerning these exposures.

As a consequence, Dr. Key has committed NIOSH to develop a criteria document for asbestos in its final form within the next 30 days. To accomplish this assignment it is necessary that we have a review of this document within the next several weeks. A draft of the criteria document will be circulated for your review by the 19th of November. Please realize that this is a working copy and we will appreciate any comments that you wish to make. Additional information is being prepared at this time and will be circulated to you for inclusion in the document as it becomes available.


Charles H. Powell, Sc.D.

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