

Interoffice Memorandum

TO (Name and Location)	O. W. Schnellenberger	DATE	1-15-82
FROM (Name and Location)	H. A. Scarborough/N. A. Flaten/J. H. Pritchard	REFERENCE NO.	82- HAS-1/NF-1/JHP-1-

ASBESTOS EXPOSURE SURVEY: SPECIAL PRODUCTS AND CELANEX BLENDING

SUMMARY

The semi-annual asbestos survey for Special Products and Celanex blending is complete. No short term exposures were found to exceed OSHA 10 fiber/cc limits, although exposures ranged widely (0.03 to 2.7 fibers/cc). This same distribution had been found the first half of the year and was attributed to variances among employees in handling procedure. To help minimize asbestos exposure, it is recommended that standard operating procedures be reemphasized.

DISCUSSION

Personnel in the Special Products and Celanex units were monitored while dumping asbestos for SEO blends. With a maximum of an hour's exposure, the data can only be compared to OSHA short term exposure limits of 10 fibers/cc. In contrast, an 8 hour time weighted average should be less than the 2 fiber/cc standard.

All monitored asbestos exposures were well below the 10 fibers/cc limit, ranging from 0.03 to 2.7 fibers/cc.¹ The two highest exposures seem to be related to cleaning and disposal procedures. This same distribution of exposures was found in the first half of 1981.²

Although exposures were well below 10 fibers/cc short term exposure limits, some employees encountered exposures ten times the average of the others. Renewed effort might help minimize unnecessary exposure risks.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The results showed no exposures to asbestos above OSHA short term exposure limits.
2. Some employees encountered exposures ten times the average of others. It is therefore recommended that standard asbestos handling procedures be reemphasized, with particular attention to clean-up and disposal.

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Please review the data with personnel involved and post on your bulletin board.

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HAS/NF/JHP/11r
Attachment

References

1. It should be noted that toxic dust masks were worn in most cases, so that actual exposure will be less than survey results.
2. Flaten, N. A., et al, "Asbestos Exposure Survey", Celanese Plastics and Specialties, Bishop, 2-17-81 (NF-3-81).

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