

B U L L E T I N

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October 12, 1977

OSHA PROPOSED RULEMAKING FOR SUBSTANCES

POSING AN OCCUPATIONAL CARCINOGENIC RISK

On Tuesday October 4, 1977, OSHA published a notice of proposed rulemaking on suspected carcinogenic substances in the Federal Register. In this proposed rulemaking, substances would be classified:

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| Category I | Toxic substance confirmed as carcinogenic in humans |
| Category II | Toxic substance indicated as a potential carcinogen |
| Category III | Any toxic substance not classified in Category I or II |
| Category IV | Toxic substance not found in the American workplace. |

The proposed regulations then draw up standards for the Categories for control through establishing permissible exposure limits, monitoring, regulated areas, respirators, medical surveillance, etc. Asbestos would be a Type I carcinogen and would require that workers' exposure be kept to "lowest level feasible." While the indications are that OSHA does not intend to re-write the Asbestos Regulation, it appears that this "fill-in-the-blanks" proposal is patterned after the asbestos regulations. Presumably, substances such as lead, benzene, etc would be controlled by establishing the Category, and then filling in exposure limits, etc.

The full text of the notice covered 100 pages in the Federal Register of Tuesday October 4, 1977 starting on Page 54147. A single copy of these proposed regulations is available on request. (Additional copies at \$5.00 each). A write-up on these proposals from the NEW YORK TIMES is enclosed.

EWD/erc
Enclosure:

E. W. Drislane
Executive Director

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