

Merewether/Price 1930 Study
Report on Effects of Asbestos Dust on the
Lungs, HMS Office
Exhibit No. T-16

- Need to Warn Workers
- Health Risk from Insulation Product Use
- Asbestos-Related Disease May Result in Death
- Invisible Dust a Hazard

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P. 15:

"There is no doubt but that **fibrosis** of the type produced by asbestos **can of itself lead to complete disablement and to a fatal termination**, and this in the absence of a superadded tuberculous infection."
[emphasis added]

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P. 34:

"The emission of a **visible dust cloud** at
a point where exhaust is applied is a
clear indication of **inadequacy**."
[emphasis added]

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P. 17:

"The necessary preventive measures include first, those directed specifically towards the suppression and control of the dust evolved in manufacturing processes, which are examined in Part II of this Report, and secondly, measures directed towards those employed in the industry...

They also include the education of the individual, as in other dangerous trades, to a *sane appreciation* of the risk, and to his personal responsibility in the prevention and suppression of dust.

The protection afforded by respirators is only partial, and there is a real danger that the use of them may give a sense of false security."
[emphasis added]

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P. 31:

"The appropriate methods for suppression of dust may only be fully determined **when the harmful effects of comparatively low concentrations of asbestos dust are duly appreciated.** Very dusty processes will not fail to be recognised, but in processes such as spinning and weaving, in which in other textile trades special methods for dust control are not required, due precautions are also necessary. The asbestos manufacturers are clearly confronted with the necessity of attaining conditions in their industry which will ensure much less dust in the atmosphere than can safely be tolerated in many comparable trades not using asbestos." [emphasis added]

Merewether/Price -- 1930 -- Part II

Work With Insulation Materials: A Dangerous Trade

...The insulating of boilers, pipes, engines, and parts of ships is the most important. Much of this work is done on board ship by contractors who employ a considerable outdoor staff.

The factories and workshops included in (a) to (g) number at least 160....It does not include the large number of works where there is incidental use of asbestos packing and jointing, asbestos-covered electric cable, or other finished goods, required for completing other manufactures.

Merewether/Price -- 1930 -- Part II

Work With Insulation Materials: A Dangerous Trade

(c) Insulation materials include fiberized asbestos; "magnesia," so-called containing about 15 per cent of fiberized asbestos and 83 per cent of magnesia, and other finely divided mixtures composed partly of fiberized asbestos, used as insulating cements or plasters; fiberized asbestos stiffened into thick sheets, like mats, for lining bulkheads of ships; shaped sections and slabs, moulded from fiberized asbestos or mixtures containing it, or built up of corrugated asbestos paper so as to enclose air cells; mattresses, made of asbestos cloth and filled with fiberized asbestos, magnesia, or other filling....

(g) Miscellaneous manufactured articles or products, composed wholly or partially of asbestos, include, in addition to moulded electrical and other goods, asbestos putty and powder, rubber hose plaited with asbestos yarn, and many others.