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GENERAL DYNAMICS Electric Boat Division **SAFETY MANUAL** 84-00-4461 (DEPT) REV 7-73	APPROVED MANAGER OF SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL	NUMBER C-23 EFFECTIVE DATE 1/1/74
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GENERAL

The single, most important factor to consider when working with asbestos materials is the elimination or reduction of asbestos dust to permissible limits through engineering controls or the use of personal protective equipment. The exposure to high concentrations of asbestos dust over long periods of time can cause a serious respiratory condition known as "asbestosis." Every effort must be taken to protect employes from over-exposure to asbestos dust including, but not limited to, the following:

1. Local exhaust ventilation shall be utilized, where feasible, when using hand or power-operated tools which may produce or release asbestos fibers.

2. Insofar as possible, asbestos materials shall be handled, mixed, applied, removed, cut or otherwise worked in a wet state sufficient to prevent the emission of air borne particles, unless the usefulness of the product would be diminished thereby. Care must be taken to prevent unnecessary generation of dust.

3. Employes engaged in the demolition or removal of asbestos covered pipes or structures or asbestos insulation shall wear the approved supplied air respirators, coveralls, head coverings, gloves and foot coverings provided.

4. Contaminated coveralls, head coverings and gloves shall be stored in lockers or containers separated from the demolition employe's street clothing.

5. Foot coverings shall be worn by laggers performing demolition and discarded in the covered containers provided for asbestos scrap at the end of the shift.

6. Laggers shall observe good housekeeping practices at all times.

7. Caution signs shall be placed at each location where asbestos materials are being removed or demolished and in all shops in which asbestos materials are being worked. These signs bear the following legend:

CAUTION: Asbestos Dust Hazard
Avoid Breathing Dust
Wear Assigned Protective Equipment
Do Not Remain In Area Unless Your Work Requires It
Breathing Asbestos Dust May Be Hazardous To Your Health

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8. Asbestos scrap material and dust shall be discarded only in the covered containers provided. These containers are lined with polyethylene bags. When full, these bags will be sealed, labeled and disposed of by the maintenance employe assigned to the area.

9. The labels to be used on asbestos scrap materials, products in transport and dust must bear the following legend:

CAUTION: Contains Asbestos Fibers - Avoid Creating Dust - Breathing Asbestos Dust May Cause Serious Bodily Harm

10. Asbestos scrap material and dusts shall be removed by the use of toxic dust vacuum cleaners only. No broom sweeping or air hosing will be allowed.

11. Monitoring will be performed by Safety and Environmental Control in accordance with requirements of Reference (a)*.

12. Medical examinations will be performed by the Medical Department in accordance with Reference (a).

13. Medical examinations will be performed by the Medical Department in accordance with Reference (a).

14. Substitute materials will be used for asbestos whenever possible.

15. Personnel working in the vicinity of laggers will wear respiratory equipment when required by 29CFR 1910.93a as determined by the Safety and Environmental Control Department. Pipelaggers will request support from Safety and Environmental Control when it is anticipated that dust limits will be exceeded. Authorized personnel may pass through the area without respiratory equipment but must do so as quickly as possible.

16. When an employe is first required to wear a respirator because of high asbestos dust concentrations, his supervisor will notify Medical Services so that a medical record can be established for that employe.

17. When concentrations of airborne asbestos fibers are found to be in excess of authorized limits, and personnel working in such areas have been exposed to these concentrations without proper respiratory equipment, the foremen of trades so exposed will be notified immediately. Whenever possible, this will be done during the shift that the air samples were taken. Supervisors so notified will notify those employes so exposed, in writing, within five days of the finding; the notice will include what corrective action is being taken.

18. Removal, rip-out, and/or demolition, will be done on weekends whenever possible as determined by health, cost and schedule criteria. Isolation bags or tents will be used on all other occasions where reasonably feasible to reduce airborne contaminants; these will generally be supplied with positive filtered exhausts.

19. During mass rip-out operations, the area will be taped off or otherwise controlled by use of signs, guards or other positive means.

20. Supervisors will assure that users of respirators are properly instructed and trained in their use.

* Reference (a).: Occupational Safety and Health Act; U. S. Department of Labor Regulation, Title 29, Part 1910. 93 a.

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