undertaken for each separate homogeneous area of asbestos-containing material, usually a single room, hallway, or central space. (Recall the cautions noted previously about the possibility of seemingly homogeneous areas being composed of different materials and thus requiring separate inspection.) It is especially important to inspect above a suspended ceiling with lay-in panels since this may reveal otherwise hidden material (see Figure 8).

The following information should be collected:

- size of the area, since this will affect the cost of asbestos control;
- type of ceiling construction if the ceiling is coated (for example, concrete joist and beam, concrete waffle slab, steel beam or bar joist, suspended metal lath, suspended lay-in panels, tile, metal, corrugated steel), since different construction types present different control problems;
- ceiling height, which may determine the practicality of enclosing the material;
- type of wall (for example, smooth or rough concrete, block or brick, plasterboard), which may indicate whether an encapsulant is needed if the material is removed;
- thickness of asbestos-containing material and variation in thickness, since encapsulants should not be applied to thick material.

Photographs also may be desirable for documenting the current condition of asbestos-containing material. A building evaluation form developed by EPA's Region VII Office is included in Appendix E for illustrative purposes.

A second common feature of the four approaches to asbestos control is the need for worker protection during control activities. Worker protection depends on the strict use of NIOSH-approved respirators. The OSHA standards specify the use of three different respirators, depending on the expected concentration of fibers in the work area: a half-face mask with either a single-use or replaceable filter, a full-face mask with replaceable filter and a pump to assist breathing, and a full-face mask with a self-contained or remote air supply. NIOSH now recommends that the first type of respirator not be used, because it does not seal properly around the face, nor has it (or any other type) been tested for effectiveness specifically against asbestos fibers.* Supplied air (type "C") units offer the most protection. Respirators are required for asbestos removal. They are highly recommended for the other control measures, since enclosure and encapsulation activities may produce fiber levels as high as or higher than those created during asbestos removal.

A third common feature is that an aggressive program of interim control should be instituted once the level of exposure or exposure potential has been assessed and before a permanent control program begins. Consider the following program measures:

- Carpets should be steam cleaned or vacuumed with a high efficiency particulate air (HEPA)-filtered vacuum cleaner.
- Contaminated books and furniture should be cleaned with HEPA-equipped vacuum cleaners, or dusted in the manner described below.
- Dusting and mopping should be done with wet or damp cloths and mops. These should be discarded in sealed plastic bags according to EPA regulations for asbestos removal and disposal. Workers should be encouraged to wear a respirator as a precautionary measure.

*A letter setting forth NIOSH's concerns about these respirators was sent to respirator manufacturers on August 25, 1980. A copy of this letter appeared in the December 1980 issue of the *Journal of the American Industrial Hygiene Association.*

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