

HEW



NEWS

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE

CONTACT: NIOSH Information Office (301) 443-2140

FOR RELEASE: 1:00 P.M., EST
Thursday, April 17, 1980

REMARKS BY NIOSH DIRECTOR ANTHONY ROBBINS ON
THE NEED FOR A NEW ASBESTOS STANDARD

Good afternoon, I am Dr. Anthony Robbins, Director of HEW's National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, NIOSH. With me are Dr. Eula Bingham, the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health; Dr. Bailus Walker, Jr., Director of Health Standards for OSHA; and two NIOSH scientists, Mr. Richard Lemen and Mr. John Dement.

We are here to announce the findings of a joint NIOSH/OSHA Work Group that has reviewed recent scientific information about the health effects of asbestos.

The Group reconfirmed that:

- o There is no safe exposure limit for asbestos.
- o All commercial and several non-commercial forms of asbestos cause disease.

On the basis of the Work Group's findings and recommendations, which we endorse, we are today recommending to the Department of Labor that it

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