



Johns-Manville

Internal Correspondence

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Date: March 26, 1975

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Subject: ASBESTOS BUILT-UP ROOFING AND HEALTH
YOUR NOTE OF MARCH 20, 1975

Since 1972, Johns-Manville has run quite a few tests on roofing jobs, both new roofing as well as tear-off, to determine if asbestos fibers are released to the air. The fiber counts are quite low.

The present TLV for asbestos fibers is 5.0 fibers/cc and, in July of 1976, the TLV is scheduled to drop to 2.0.

In looking at all the data attached, I find no fiber level as high as 2.0 fibers, and with the exception of an early tear-off (St. Louis Paper), none of the jobs even reach 1.0 fibers.

It would appear as though new roofing, where the fibers are clearly bound by saturant, have levels that are barely detectable. Tear-offs, which will be very variable in condition, methodology, etc., can have higher levels but still apparently within the 1976 proposed standard of 2.0 fibers. The total dust generated (mainly from roof insulation) can be considerable and this would contain perlite, glass fibers, etc. It would appear that (as in any demolition) good work practice would require respirators and eye protection for general protection. The asbestos levels, however, would be O.K.

If there is any question that remains unanswered, it would be whether the 2.0 fibers is truly a valid TLV. By definition, no hazard should exist as long as levels are below the TLV.

This TLV is at least being questioned by Dr. Selikoff. The British Occupational Hygiene Society is reevaluating data on Turner Brothers Asbestos Ltd. to see if the 2.0 TLV is reasonable. If it is, asbestos BUR looks very safe.

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