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Inter Office

DESIGN CENTER
FACILITY & STAFF SERVICES

Personnel and
Organization Staff

Mr. H. M. Larsen
Facility Services
Design Center

November 3, 1977

cc R. Peterson, M.D.
R. Quarles

Subject: Employee Exposure to Asbestos - Modeling Systems Room - Model Buildup Room

Reference: Industrial Hygiene Report to H. M. Larsen On June 1, 1977.

An industrial hygiene survey was performed in the Modeling Systems Room in Design Center at Research and Engineering on October 12, 1977. This survey is a continuation of one performed on April 4, 1977. At that time potential asbestos exposure was evaluated in the design room. The modeling room is separated from the design room by a wall. However, employees in this department work in both rooms. A potential asbestos exposure exists due to an approximate 3 inch coating of insulation on the ceilings of both rooms (confirmation of the asbestos was made by Central Laboratory and was attached to the June 1, 1977 report). Periodically this insulation does separate and fall from the ceiling. This fall out is of concern to the employees resulting in questions about their health and subsequently our sampling.

Air samples of the ambient dust levels were taken at four points in the Modeling Room. The sampling locations were selected to provide an overall view of contamination in the room. No detectable asbestos was found on any of the samples and no employee health hazard is felt to exist from exposure to asbestos. These results combined with those from the previous sampling on April 4, 1977 indicate that the normal work performed by the design engineers can be performed without a hazardous exposure to asbestos.

Keith Lee

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Industrial Hygiene and Toxicology Department
Employee Health Services

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Attachments (2)



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DISCUSSION

Currently, occupation of and work performed in the Modeling Systems Area (both design and modeling rooms) does not create an employee health hazard. However, it is possible that a health hazard could be created whenever work requires manipulation of the insulation. For this reason, whenever maintenance is performed, the employees should be instructed in the potential health hazards and proper handling procedures for asbestos.

Presently, this area is clean with little settled dust or debris. It is important to maintain the area in this condition or it may be possible to create a health hazard by movement in the area which would disturb any asbestos contaminated dust. To prevent a deterioration in cleanliness and creation of a health hazard to janitorial personnel it is recommended that a vacuum approved for use with asbestos be purchased and used to clean up the ceiling fall-out. This type of vacuum contains a highly efficient filter which prevents asbestos from passing through the filter, out the exhaust, and reentry into the room atmosphere. If help is needed in selection of this vacuum please contact this department.

DATA SHEET
INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE SERVICES SECTION
INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE AND TOXICOLOGY DEPARTMENT
EMPLOYEE HEALTH SERVICES

PERMISSIBLE OCCUPATIONAL EXPOSURE LIMITS TO AIRBORNE CONTAMINANTS:

(fibers/cc = Asbestos fibers, longer than 5 micrometers per cubic centimeter of air sampled)

Time Weighted Average Exposure, 8 hr. exposure
Asbestos - 2 fibers/cc

General Room Samples

<u>Location - Modeling Room</u>	<u>Asbestos - fibers/filter*</u>	<u>Airborne Concentrat:</u>
Southwest corner	<3000	Non-detectable
Northwest	<3000	
Northeast	<3000	
Southeast	<3000	

* 3000 fibers is the minimal detectable by the laboratory

Equipment: Bendix BDX 44 - air sampling pump
0.8 micrometer, membrane filters, 37 mm diameter

Laboratory: Clayton Environmental Consultants



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