

Asbestos Study Is Begun On 150 Types of Products

WASHINGTON, Aug. 31 (AP) — The Government is starting an investigation of nearly 150 types of consumer products to see whether they pose any danger caused by asbestos, a substance that when breathed can cause cancer.

The effort is being initiated by the Consumer Product Safety Commission, which is working on the wording of a request for information from scientists, manufacturers and the general public on asbestos in other types of products. Many of the product types among the nearly 150 are known to contain asbestos in at least some brands.

However, asbestos is not considered dangerous unless its fibers are released in a way that people can inhale them. Thus, not all products containing asbestos necessarily pose a health problem. Breathable asbestos fibers have been associated with cancer and other diseases in numerous scientific studies. Once inhaled, the fibers can become lodged in the lungs for life.

Publication to Be Delayed

The commission will publish the list of product types in the Federal Register. However, publication is being delayed until the Environmental Protection Agency is ready to announce its own inquiry into the impact of asbestos on the environment. The announcement is expected in October.

Following is a list of asbestos-containing consumer products in a draft prepared by the commission. The commission said in a footnote, "The inclusion of a product on this list does not mean that all brands or models of that product contain asbestos."

Asbestos Paper Products: Acoustical ceiling tile, lamp sockets, burner mats for gas stoves, roofing felts (outer layers), pipe and boiler covering, vinyl sheet flooring backing, radiator top insulation, appliance heat shielding for slow cookers, heat shielding for hair dryers, paper sheets for heat insulation; millboard for these uses: television and other electronic switch plates, electric switch boxes, meter reinforced gaskets for air-cooled engines, electrical washers, linings for ovens and other devices, wall protection behind heat-generating products, floor protection under wood and coal stoves, soldering and welding blocks, iron rests, heat shielding for toasters, heat shielding for rotisserie broilers, fireproof wallboard, metal-clad fire doors and partitions, tent grommets, stove pipe rings.

Cloth and Woven Products: Flexible air conductor for heating, cooling and ventilating equipment; appliance wiring for barbecue fire starters, broilers, curling irons, electric blankets, hair dryers, heating pads, ranges, slow cookers, toasters, irons, deep-fat fryers and electric fry pans; awnings, candlewicks, catalytic heater mantles, cigarette lighter wicks; cord for these uses: seals in high temperature gaskets, valve stem packings, insulation for glass handling tools and braided wall steam hose, theater curtains; felt for these uses: reinforcements in plastics, gaskets, reinforcement in asbestos tapes, secondary insulation in high-temperature wire and cable, asphalt impregnated roofing felts, piano and organ felts; heating pads (element insulation); ironing board pads and covers, lamp and lantern mantles, pipe and boiler covering, pot holders and oven mitts; these flame resistant garments: gloves, hats, helmets, hoods, mittens, overgaiters, sleeves, suits, umbrellas, aprons, arm protectors, blankets, boots, caps; smokers' bibs; coal and wood burning stoves, tape for pipe insulation, braid and rope for packing, motion picture screens; tent grommets.

Asbestos Cement Products: Water, sewer and septic drain field pipe; air duct pipe; these sheet products: roofing clapboard, siding, shingles, interior walls, boiler and furnace baffles, bulk sheeting, welding shields, baking sheets, blackboards, laboratory table tops, linings for vaults, safes, humidifiers and filing cabinets.

Viscous Matrix Products: Adhesives (glues and epoxies), air-duct cement for asbestos-cement air duct, buffing and polishing compounds, caulks and nutties, floor tile cement and mastic, auto body filler, flashing cement, furnace cement, glazing compound for ceramics, pipe and boiler coverings, roof and driveway coatings, stains and varnishes, automotive metal deadener, automotive undercoating, refrigerator cements, automotive muffler repair compounds.

Products Subject to Inadvertent Asbestos Contamination: Driveway gravel, fertilizer and lawn care products, potting materials, talcs for noncosmetic or food use applications.

Miscellaneous Products: Sprayed acoustical and thermal insulation material, ammunition shell wadding, automotive mufflers, barbecue firebed materials in gas barbecue grills, boat hull repair kits, flower pots, clutch plate friction materials, brake lining friction materials, home hobby potters' kilns, pottery clay, asbestos powder, bulk fiber, reinforcement in molded plastics and rubber, automotive radiator sealant, vinyl asbestos floor tiles, abrasive wheels, serial distress flares, molded plastics and phenolic laminates, paint, textured paint, cement, drywall and plaster patching compounds; artificial gas fireplace emberizing material, phonograph records.

These products were listed as possibly containing asbestos according to "consumer inquiries and other sources not verified by the commission."

Appliances: Air conditioners, dishwashers, hand-held mixers, portable electric heaters, popcorn poppers, refrigerators, vacuum cleaners, waffle makers.

Miscellaneous Products: Carpet padding, fireplaces, instant papier-maché, light fixtures on railroad passenger cars, welding masks, file cabinets.

*Underlined products
are those which
contain(ed) or may
contain "Calidria"
asbestos products.*

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