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OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY & HEALTH REPORT

✓ ASBESTO

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USE OF ASBESTOS PRODUCTS

Consultation with OSHA has suggested that irregular, occasional, short exposure to asbestos products, particularly of a non-fibrous composition does not require adherence to all provisions of 29 CFR 1910.93(a); e.g. elaborate medical program and records. Protection of personnel commensurate with the exposure is necessary.

Interpretation of these principles leads to practical policies on handling asbestos products. First, any use of loose fibrous asbestos should be discontinued; new uses of asbestos insulation should be avoided. Existing asbestos insulation, if covered, should present no hazard. Removing of such insulation, if on an irregular maintenance basis with only occasional exposure, may be conducted with necessary safeguards; such as, approved respirators and eye protection. Record of such work, giving circumstances and duration should be kept for each employee exposed.

Occasional use of bonded asbestos products, including corrugated board, Transite, and molded asbestos gaskets may be continued with proper safeguards. On-site drilling, cutting or sawing will require approved respirators. Interior work should be provided with vacuum take-off. Shop machining should include an effective hood. All provisions of 1910.93(a) and any future amendments and revisions must be observed for work not classified as irregular in the responsible judgment of the management involved.

Use of asbestos garments should be confined to bona fide thermal protection. Asbestos gloves should not be in general use. For normal high temperature occasional, discontinuous use, respirators should not be needed with limited use of asbestos gloves.

Incidentally, personal use of asbestos gloves for home barbecues, ovens and similar applications should be judiciously limited. These gloves and all asbestos garments should be restricted from availability to children.

Further references on this subject are available from Corporate Safety.

REFERENCE:

FDA - CFR Part 191 191.9 Federal Register 9/26/72, page 14873