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New York City establishes regulations on asbestos-use

New York City last week clamped down on sprayed asbestos used to fireproof steel frame buildings because of the material's link to lung cancer (ENR 4/2 p. 11).

New regulations, drafted by the city's Department of Air Resources in the Environmental Protection Administration, are said to be the first of their type in the U.S.

Officials acted after medical research showed that asbestos dust could cause lung cancer. The regulations are temporary pending public hearings after which they become a city statute.

The regulations require that the area of building being sprayed with asbestos be tightly enclosed, that waste material of asbestos content be cleaned up and placed in sealed containers and then that the area be cleaned by a vacuum cleaner. Asbestos sprayed in air ducts must be coated with a sealant to preclude exposure to circulating air.

The fireproofing material, which contains rock wool, a cementitious binder and up to 25% asbestos fiber, is forced out of a hose dry but is mixed with water pumped through a second hose.

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FOR JOHNS MANVILLE CORP.

PROGRAM Around New York STATION WNYC

DATE April 21, 1970 - 8:30AM CITY New York

ASBESTOS SHOW CAUSE ORDER DELIVERED

NEWSCASTER: Acting quickly on New York City's and the nation's first asbestos polluting regulations, Air Resources Commissioner Robert Rickles said show-cause orders would be delivered today to two construction sites. He said the orders would be served on sites in New York City. The orders specified that contractors show cause within five days why asbestos spraying equipment should not be sealed.

Last Friday, the World Trade Center received a similar order. For the first time the Department of Air Resources had employed such a legal procedure. The new asbestos regulations went into effect one week ago yesterday to control handling and clean-up operations.