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Emergency Asbestos Standard Promulgated

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration has determined that the currently effective standards for asbestos dust concentrations are dangerous to employees' health and has promulgated an emergency standard reducing allowable concentrations of the hazardous substance. A new section 1910.93a has been added to the Occupational Safety and Health Standards at ¶ 6647.93a, which reduces the formerly permissible concentration of 12 fibers per milliliter greater than five microns in length for an eight-hour time-weighted average to 5 fibers per milliliter for the same size particles. This standard is immedately effective.

The emergency standard requires employers to provide engineering controls to abate excessive dust concentrations and respiratory equipment where the controls are not feasible or capable of controlling the dust levels. Requirements have also been set for the use of dust collecting devices on hand and power tools and for gathering and disposing of asbestos dust. Details of the new standards are found at ¶ 8239 as well as the technical changes made in other standards to reflect the emergency standard.

SBA Releases Policy Statement on Safety Improvement Loans

The Small Business Administration has issued its policy guidelines for making safety improvement loans. The Occupational Safety and Health Act authorizes improvement loans if the Administration determines that substantial economic injury will result to the firm if required safety improvements are made. Only firms meeting the size requirements of the SBA Rules and Regulations, Part 121, are eligible.

Permissible Loan Purposes

Loans may be authorized to construct a new building, replace working capital expended incidentally for compliance, meet equipment notes or mortgage payments, help finance startup costs, and finance changes in methods

This report is in two parts. This is Part 1.

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TABLE G-3—MINERAL DUSTS

Substance	Mppcf [1]	Mg/M³
Silica:		
Crystalline:		
Quartz (respirable)	250 [2]	10mg/M³ [3]
	%SiO₂+5	%SiO₂+2
Quartz (total dust)		30mg/M³
		%SiO₂+2
Cristobalite: Use ½ the value calculated from the count or mass formulae for quartz.		
Tridymite: Use ½ the value calculated from the formulae for quartz.		
Amorphous, including natural diatomaceous earth	20	80mg/M³
		%SiO₂
Silicates (less than 1% crystalline silica):		
Mica	20	
Soapstone	20	
Talc	20	
Portland cement	50	
Graphite (natural)	15	
Coal dust (respirable fraction less than 5% SiO₂)		2.4mg/M³ or
For more than 6% SiO₂		10mg/M³
		%SiO₂+2

TABLE G-3—MINERAL DUSTS

Substance	Mppcf [1]	Mg/M³
Inert or Nuisance Dust:		
Respirable fraction	15	5mg/M³
Total dust	50	15mg/M³

NOTE: Conversion factors—
mppcf×35.3=million particles per cubic meter
=particles per c.c.

[1] Millions of particles per cubic foot of air, based on impinger samples counted by light-field technics.

[2] The percentage of crystalline silica in the formula is the amount determined from air-borne samples, except in those instances in which other methods have been shown to be applicable.

[3] As determined by the membrane filter method at 430× phase contrast magnification.

[4] Both concentration and percent quartz for the application of this limit are to be determined from the fraction passing a size-selector with the following characteristics:

Aerodynamic diameter (unit density sphere)	Percent passing selector
2	90
2.5	75
3.5	50
5.0	25
10	0

The measurements under this note refer to the use of an AEC instrument. If the respirable fraction of coal dust is determined with a MRE the figure corresponding to that of 2.4 Mg/M³ in the table for coal dust is 4.5 Mg/M³

[As amended at 36 F. R. 15101, Aug. 13, 1971, and at 36 F. R. 23207, Dec. 7, 1971.]

[¶ 6647.93a]

§ 1910.93a Asbestos dust.

(a) The 8-hour time-weighted average airborne concentration of asbestos dust to which employees are exposed shall not exceed 5 fibers per milliliter greater than 5 microns in length, as determined by the membrance filter method at 400–450× magnification (4 millimeter objective) phase contrast illumination. Concentrations above 5 fibers per milliliter but not to exceed 10 fibers per milliliter, may be permitted up to a total of 15 minutes in an hour for up to 5 hours in an 8-hour day.

(b) Engineering methods, such as but not limited to, enclosure, vacuum sweeping, and local exhaust ventilation, shall be used to meet the exposure limits prescribed in paragraph (a) of this section. Where such engineering methods are not feasible, or do not otherwise reduce the concentrations below those prescribed in paragraph (a) of this section, respiratory protective devices shall be provided and used in accordance with paragraph (c) of this section.

(c)(1) (i) When the limits of exposure to asbestos dust prescribed in paragraph (a) of this section are exceeded and when engineering controls required by paragraph (b) of this section are not feasible or do not otherwise reduce the concentration of asbestos dust below those prescribed in paragraph (a) of this section, the employer shall require the use of respiratory protective devices. The selection of respiratory protective devices shall be limited to those specified in the remaining subparagraphs of this paragraph (c).

(ii) The employer shall require that each employee test his respiratory protective device before each use in order to insure a proper fit according to the manufacturer's instructions. The employer shall further provide for effective training or supervision of employees in the testing of respiratory protective devices for fit before their use.

(2) For an atmosphere containing not more than 25 fibers per milliliter greater than 5 microns in length over an 8-hour average, or more than 50 fibers per milliliter over any period of 15 minutes, a reusable or single-use filter type respirator, operating with negative pressure during the inhalation phase of breathing, approved by the U.S. Bureau of Mines under the provisions of 30 CFR Part 14 (Bureau of Mines Schedule 21B), or a valveless respirator providing equivalent protection, shall be used.

(3) For an atmosphere containing not more than 250 fibers per milliliter greater than 5 microns in length over an 8-hour average, or more than 500 fibers per milliliter over any period of 15 minutes, a powered filter positive pressure res-

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pirator approved by the U.S. Bureau of Mines under the provisions of 30 CFR Part 14 (Bureau of Mines Schedule 21B) shall be used.

(4) For an atmosphere containing more than 250 fibers per milliliter greater than 5 microns in length over an 8-hour average a type C positive pressure supplied-air respirator approved by the U.S. Bureau of Mines under the provisions of 30 CFR Part 12 (Bureau of Mines Schedule 19B) shall be used.

(5) The employer shall establish a respirator program in accordance with the requirements of American National Standard Practice for Respiratory Protection Z88.2—1969.

(6) The respirators provided each employee shall be properly inspected, cleaned, repaired and stored.

(d) (1) When an employer has employees who are exposed to asbestos dust exceeding the limits prescribed in paragraph (a) of this section and the exposure results from the operations described in the remaining subparagraphs of this paragraph (d), the employer shall comply with the requirements of these subparagraphs relating to the operations involved. The requirements of this paragraph are in addition to those prescribed in paragraph (b) of this section.

(2) All hand- or power-operated tools which produce asbestos dust such as, but not limited to, saws, scorers, abrasive wheels, and drills shall be provided with local exhaust ventilation and dust collectors in accordance with the American National Standard Fundamentals Governing the Design and Operation of Local Exhaust Systems: ANSI Z9.2—1971.

(3) Employees exposed to the spraying of asbestos or the demolition of pipes, structures, or equipment covered or insulated with asbestos shall be provided with respiratory protective devices in accordance with paragraph (c)(4) of this section.

(e) Asbestos cement, mortar, coatings, grout, and plaster shall be mixed in closed bags or other containers.

(f) Asbestos waste and scrap shall be collected and disposed of in sealed bags or other containers.

(g) All cleanup of asbestos dust and blowing shall be performed by vacuum cleaners. No dry sweeping shall be performed.

[1910.93(a) added at 36 F. R. 23207, Dec. 7, 1971.]

[¶ 6647.94]

§ 1910.94 Ventilation.

(a) *Abrasive blasting.*—(1) *Definitions applicable to this paragraph.*—(i) *Abrasive.* A solid substance used in an abrasive blasting operation.

(ii) *Abrasive-blasting respirator.* A continuous flow air-line respirator constructed so that it will cover the wearer's head, neck, and shoulders to protect him from rebounding abrasive.

(iii) *Blast cleaning barrel.* A complete enclosure which rotates on an axis, or which has an internal moving tread to tumble the parts, in order to expose various surfaces of the parts of the action of an automatic blast spray.

(iv) *Blast cleaning room.* A complete enclosure in which blasting operations are performed and where the operator works inside of the room to operate the blasting nozzle and direct the flow of the abrasive material.

(v) *Blasting cabinet.* An enclosure where the operator stands outside and operates the blasting nozzle through an opening or openings in the enclosure.

(vi) *Clean air.* Air of such purity that it will not cause harm or discomfort to an individual if it is inhaled for extended periods of time.

(vii) *Dust collector.* A device or combination of devices for separating dust from the air handled by an exhaust ventilation system.

(viii) *Exhaust ventilation system.* A system for removing contaminated air from a space, comprising two or more of the following elements (*a*) enclosure or hood, (*b*) duct work, (*c*) dust collecting equipment, (*d*) exhauster, and (*e*) discharge stack.

(ix) *Particulate-filter respirator.* An air purifying respirator, commonly referred to as a dust or a fume respirator, which removes most of the dust or fume from the air passing through the device.

(x) *Respirable dust.* Airborne dust in sizes capable of passing through the upper respiratory system to reach the lower lung passages.

(xi) *Rotary blast cleaning table.* An enclosure where the pieces to be cleaned are positioned on a rotating table and are passed automatically through a series of blast sprays.

(xii) *Abrasive blasting.* The forcible application of an abrasive to a surface by pneumatic pressure, hydraulic pressure, or centrifugal force.

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