

BASF Wyandotte Corporation

Asbestos

BASF



INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO S. Herron, P. Lubs,
W. Skocypec
CITY & DATE Wyandotte
October 6, 1975
FROM E. Kerfoot
Account _____ SUBJECT Proposed Standards
COPIES R.M. Cushman, J. Dayan,
J. McClellan, G.J. Melanson,
Dr. J.J. Ronayne
REFERENCE Wall Street Journal - Oct. 2

Cost Center 3116



As appeared in the Wall Street Journal on October 2, the Labor Department proposed new and revised job health standards limiting worker exposure to three widely used industrial substances and setting procedures for handling 11 other toxic chemicals.

"The new standards cut in half the permissible exposure to lead and toluene, and reduce by 90% the amount of asbestos fibers permitted in the air at work places. Existing exposure limits for the other toxic chemicals weren't changed."

"The new proposed standards will appear soon in the Federal Register. Before they become final, the Labor Department will review public comments on them, environmental and inflationary impact statements, and may hold public hearings".

1. Lead Standard

The lead standard reduces the permissible exposure of workers to 100 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ of lead TWA from the previous level of 200 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. An action previous level of 50 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ has been established and exposures above that level would require regular monitoring and notification of the results.

The standard also sets a maximum standard for lead in the blood at 60 $\mu\text{g}/100 \text{ g blood}$.

2. Toluene Standard

The current limit for toluene is 200 ppm and the new limit would be 100 ppm TWA. The standard also sets a ceiling limit of 200 ppm during any 15 minute period. An action level of 50 ppm will require a full monitoring program if exceeded.

3. Asbestos Standard

The revised asbestos standard allows workers to be exposed to an average of 0.5 fibers/cc TWA in place of the present 5 fibers/cc limit. The standard also stipulates 5 fibers/cc ceiling over any 15 minute period.

The new levels are more stringent than a previously planned additional standard that would have cut exposure limits beginning next year to 2 fibers/cc.

4. Other Chemicals

The 11 other toxic substances would require monitoring exposures regularly when they exceed half of the existing permissible exposure levels.

The 11 chemicals are:

1. p-tert-Butyltoluene
2. Ethyl benzene
3. alpha Methylstyrene
4. Cumene
5. Styrene
6. Vinyl toluene
7. Cyclohexane
8. Camphor
9. Mesityl oxide
10. 5-methyl-3-Heptanone
11. Ozone

Please review any of these materials that are used in your area and determine if we can live with these new levels as proposed.



E. J. Kerfoot

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