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Medical Evaluation of Men Fabricating (Asbestos)  
Caustic Cell Diaphragms

July 11, 1975

Industrial Hygiene evaluation of the fabrication of asbestos - containing diaphragms for caustic chlorine cells can be summarized as follows:

1. Asbestos levels in the breathing zone of workers doing this work are substantially below the present and proposed "TLV" levels, and hence should be safe for continuous work exposure.
2. Conditions of fabrication are stable to the point that repeated environmental sampling should not be necessary unless changes are made in the procedure.

In view of these findings, it is my medical judgment that special "asbestos examinations" are not medically indicated for workers involved in this procedure. As a matter of good occupational medical practice, these workers should continue to be offered periodic comprehensive medical examination at intervals of approximately 3 years, as in the past.

TRR:ba