

J. M. Devins

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ASBESTOS SURVEY

An industrial hygiene survey of asbestos operations made in August, 1973, suggested changes in handling and dust control. This letter covers the February 12 survey conducted to evaluate improvements in the insulation shop.

The results of this survey show that the improvements make it possible to comply with the OSHA standard for both the time-weighted average and peak concentrations. The attached table includes the locations where samples were taken, their respective fiber concentrations, and concentrations from the earlier survey.

Economics as well as worker exposure should be considered with this operation. This shop apparently is used only when there is a large project requiring much fabrication. For the daily work, cutting by hand is done at the job site where there is essentially no dust control. To reduce the exposures to the men in the field, prefabricated pieces could be used-prefabricated in the shop or pieces purchased prefabricated. If pieces were purchased, then there would be no need to have the power equipment available in the shop. But if it was decided to increase the use of the shop, the following means of improving the exhaust system should be considered:

- Table saw - place exhaust below table
at the open points before and aft
of the blade
- employ down draft table on hand saw
- locate top exhaust closer to blade
on hand saw.

DUP 0903122

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J. A. Robbe
March 21, 1973
Page 2

Other suggestions are:

- Keep a reserve of respirators on insulation wagons;
- check on maintenance men regarding their asbestos handling, i.e. - rip-out of old asbestos in order to make repairs;
- have field personnel vacuum off clothes before lunch and prior to leaving work.

RJR/bjd
Attachment

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY
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TABLE OF RESULTS

Sample #	Location*	Airborne Concentration Fibers (> 5 μ m)/ml		Sample Time (min.) 2/73	Comments
		2/73	8/72		
1	Operator scoring blocks on table saw	3.5	4.4	10	
2	Take-off man on table saw	7.0	9.6	10	
3	Clean-up of area after scoring operation was completed	< 0.9	10.0 13.3	3-1/4	Portable vacuum cleaner used
4	Operator cutting angles on band saw	3.3	8.8	13-1/4	
5	Take-off man on band saw	0.7	9.4 19.2	13-1/4	
6	Clean-up after angles were cut.	4.8	10.0 13.3	0	Portable vacuum cleaner used - hard to explain high result unless there was a large amount of unsettled dust after operation.

* All samples were taken at nose level of person.

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