FILE NAME: New York State & NY Times (NY)

DATE: 1972 June 7

DOC#: NY039

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: NYT Article - Asbestos Code Kept Despite a Warning

ASBESTOS CODE KEPT DESPITE A WARNING
Special to The New York Times
New York Times (1857-Current file); Jun 7, 1972, ProQuest Historical Newspapers The New York Times (1851 - 2002)
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ASBESTOS CODE KEPT DESPITE A WARNING

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, June 6—The Occupational Safety and Health Administration ordered today a continuation of asbestos dust exposure limits for four more years despite the recommendations by a scientific panel that they be cut by more than half.

On the basis of mounting medical evidence of asbestos-caused cancer in the vicinity of plants using the material, Secretary of Labor James D. Hodgson had issued a temporary emergency standard of five fibres of asbestos per cubic centimeter of air for workers using the substance. A ceiling of 10 fibres per cubic centimeter was set the maximum exposure for workers in an eight-hour day.

The so-called consensus standard originally promulgated under the new safety and health law set a standard of 12 fibres per cubic centimeter and double that for an eight-hour day.

After setting the emergency standard on an appeal from the Industrial Union Department of the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations, the Secretary named a scientific advisory committee that included doctors, industrial hygienists and engineers to recommend a permanent standard.

This group proposed a standard of two fibres per cubic centimeter of air and a maximum exposure limit of five fibres for an eight-hour day. The Secretary ruled today that the two-fibre limit would become effective July 1, 1976. The eight-hour exposure limit was to remain at 10 fibres.

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