

	Section	<u>SAFETY</u>
ASBESTOS HANDLING REQUIREMENTS	Issued	<u>November 17, 1975 Code 11.7</u>
	Replaces	<u>NEW</u>

Asbestos is a hydrated magnesium silicate used for heat insulation and in textile products which must resist high temperatures.

Airborne asbestos fibers have been found to be hazardous to a person's health when significant quantities of the material are inhaled. Accordingly, the Beaumont Refinery has adopted specific precautions and handling requirements regarding asbestos to safeguard the health of employees and the surrounding area. These procedures incorporate the standards for asbestos handling issued by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and the Environmental Protection Agency.

Each supervisor is responsible for insuring compliance with the procedures in his work area.

Questions about the procedures or their interpretations should be directed to the Safety Department which maintains a reference file of the latest applicable material.

Approved List

The items listed below contain asbestos. They have been examined, found NOT to present any health hazards and are approved for use in the refinery without special handling requirements.

- Woven asbestos covered thermocouple lead wires
- Solid sheet asbestos gaskets
- Spiral wound asbestos packed gaskets
- Asbestos gloves
- Asbestos welding blankets
- Graphite or teflon impregnated woven asbestos packing

Asbestos bearing material not on the approved list must be reviewed by the Safety and Security Department before use to determine if special personal protective measures are necessary.

Insulating Material

All new thermal insulating material including mortar must be asbestos free for refinery use. This has been a standing instruction for the Purchasing Department since August 29, 1972.

Some asbestos bearing insulation may have the same appearance as newer material that is asbestos free. When a doubt exists, material installed prior to January 1, 1973 should be assumed to be asbestos bearing.

When asbestos bearing insulation is removed during equipment maintenance, it is to be replaced with asbestos free insulation.

Handling Requirements

The proprietary plant or section is responsible for ensuring compliance with the requirements below for handling asbestos in the Beaumont Refinery. When requested, the Safety and Security Department serves in an advisory capacity concerning these items to aid in securing such compliance.

1. The Safety and Security Department should be informed in advance of large pre-planned jobs requiring the removal of asbestos bearing insulation. Such notification is not necessary for small jobs such as removing a small section insulation for the inspection of base metal. The worker or workers removing the insulation must wear an air purifying respirator. If significant airborne fibers may be generated, then the precautions below must be observed.
2. Respirators, caution signs, caution tags and safety tape should be obtained to complete the jobs. These items are presently available from the Safety Store-room.
3. Asbestos is best handled in a wet condition. It should be wetted to keep moist during the removal and handling period if possible.
4. In congested areas and in process units, a safety tape barrier must be installed to isolate where insulation is being removed. It is recommended that the safety tape be located at least 25 feet from the work area. Tape barriers are not required when small groups are working in isolated areas where other personnel will not be present.
5. All workers inside the area marked by the safety tape must wear air purifying respirators as well as those handling the material. This requirement is essential regardless of the wetting practice or the need for a barricade.
6. Caution signs must be posted at all approaches to the area in which asbestos type insulation is being handled.
7. Employees who, according to medical examination, cannot function normally with a respirator device must not be assigned to work requiring a respirator.
8. All removed insulation must be carefully placed in plastic bags. When full, the bags must be sealed and the caution tags attached in a readily visible location.
9. Piping and other equipment covered with asbestos insulation must not be dropped or thrown from buildings or structures. It must be carefully lowered to the ground. When jacketing has been removed from piping, the insulation must be wetted before lowering.
10. The Environmental Protection Agency must be notified on demolition work involving asbestos covered piping and equipment. Engineering's Conservation Section is responsible for such notification and therefore the Section must be informed at least 30 days prior to the start of field work.
11. Sealed containers of asbestos scrap may be taken to the sanitary land fill area for burying. Engineering's Conservation Section must be informed before such action is taken.
12. Contractors working in the refinery are responsible for conducting their work in compliance with OSHA and EPA regulations. The Mobil representative dealing with the contractor is responsible for making sure the firm is aware of its obligations to conform with these regulations. The contractor must provide its own signs, bags, bags and barricade tape, etc.