THE FINANCIAL TIMES
May 27, 1969

Regulations on asbestos handling

TO PROVIDE workers with improved protection against inhaling asbestos dust, new regulations have been drafted by the Department of Employment and Productivity. They apply to all premises covered by the Factories Act, with the exception of docks. Dock workers will be covered by the revised Docks Regulations.

The action on asbestos has been taken to supersede the Asbestos Industry Regulations of 1931, and the new procedures will become operative on May 14, 1970.

The old regulations were out of date so far as many of the principles of protection they embodied were concerned. They did not apply to certain types of work, such as lagging, where the risks from asbestos dust are particularly high.

The onus of compliance with the new regulations, which remedy these deficiencies, is placed not only on the factory occupier (as previously) but on any contractor working with asbestos within a factory, whether he employs labour or is working on his own account. Certain duties also apply to workers.

The main aim throughout the various clauses of the regulations is to keep the asbestos dust out of the air in work-places by requiring all asbestos processes to be carried on under exhaust draught or some "equally safe" system.

If this cannot be done, then persons working in an environment where asbestos dust is likely to escape must wear respirators and protective clothing.

The building industry will have to take particular note of that section of the regulations which deals with the construction of new plant to be used for certain asbestos processes. The storage and distribution of asbestos and the accommodation to be provided for protective equipment as well as its cleansing are also covered.

THE LISTENER
May 22, 1969

Asbestos

SIR:- Mr Alisdair Fairley (*Listener*, 1 May) quotes a 'recent' (1965) US Presidential Committee report referring to 'possible' effects on human health from asbestos fibres from brake linings. He should know that even more recent research, carried out by US Public Health Service workers and published in 1968, refutes the earlier speculations. J. R. Lynch of the US National Centre for Urban and Industrial Health, examining the suggestion in the Journal of the Air Pollution Control Association, concludes a paper entitled 'Brake-Lining Decomposition Products' with the words: 'Only a very small proportion of the asbestos worn from brake linings is released as free fibre. Free fibres from brake-lining wear seem to be an inconsequential health factor in urban air pollution.'

W. P. HOWARD
Asbestos Information Committee, London W1

ILFORD RECORDER, Essex
May 8, 1969

[redacted]

SUSPICIONS that asbestos dust led to the death of a retired Ilford company secretary, were quashed on Tuesday by coroner Mr. Peter Kershaw.

At an inquest on Mr. Leonard Seale, 73, of Medina-lane, South, the coroner said there was one to natural causes—a cancerous growth.

Pathologist Dr. Alan Grant had found a slight evidence of asbestos particles but not enough to suggest the dead man's lung condition had been affected by them.

Mr. Seale, who died at home in April, retired 11 years ago after 40 years with a boiler firm in Dew, who used asbestos for one process of their work.

His death had been brought to the notice of the coroner by his doctor, who felt there might be an industrial cause.

THE TIMES
May 23, 1969

Asbestos: safety plan

New regulations to protect workers against the health hazards of asbestos dust were laid before Parliament yesterday by Mrs. Barbara Castle, Secretary for Employment and Productivity. They are due to come into operation on May 14, 1970.

The aim is to keep dust out of the air of work places by requiring all asbestos processes to be carried out under an exhaust draught. Otherwise, protective clothing and respiratory equipment must be provided for workers.

With certain exceptions, young persons are prohibited from working in processes to which the regulations apply and from any cleaning work.

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