FILE NAME: Mead (MEAD)

DATE: 1971 Dec 22

DOC#: MEAD062

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Memo with Labor Dept Emergency Health Standards for Asbestos

WOODWARD COMPANY

A DIVISION OF THE MEAD CORPORATION
WOODWARD, ALA.

December 22, 1971

FROM: Mr. Lloyd C. McNeill

TO: Mr. S. D. Weaver

SUBJECT:

COPY TO: Messrs. W. R. Bond, C. W. Adair, S. H. Mooney

The attached information regarding emergency health standards for asbestos should be of interest to you.

L. C. McNeill, Jr.

LCM/jal

Attachment

or those who "wildcat" will be protected more than ever imagined. The campaigns for safety by state and federal governments, unions, news media, and management, he said, will have such a wide-reaching effect that the American workforce will never again be subjected to any but the best conditions in safety and health protection.

Labor Department Issues Emergency Health Standard for Asbestos

[¶27.7] The Labor Department has determined that exposure to asbestos dust under the present Walsh-Healey standard constitutes a grave danger to employees. A temporary standard has been issued reducing the permissible level of asbestos dust from 12 fibers per milliliter greater than 5 microns long to 5 such fibers for an eight-hour time-weighted average airborne concentration [36 F.R. 23207, 23217, 12-7-71].

☞ EMERGENCY STANDARD → An emergency standard is issued without notice and is in effect for a limited time only (up to six months), during which a rulemaking proceeding must establish a permanent standard [see ¶6016].

Engineering methods. The emergency standard also requires engineering methods such as enclosure of operations, vacuum sweeping, and local exhaust ventilation:

• Where respirators are used, the employer must require each worker to test his protective device for proper fit before each use, and must train or supervise workers in testing the devices for proper fitting. Details of types of approved respirators are given.

• Hand- or power-operated tools that produce asbestos dust must have local exhaust ventilation and dust collectors.

• Employees exposed to the spraying of asbestos or the demolition of pipes, structures or equipment covered or insulated with asbestos must be provided with respirators.

• Asbestos cement, mortar, coatings, grout and plaster must be mixed in closed bags or other containers.

• Asbestos waste and scrap must be collected and disposed of in sealed bags or other containers.

• All clean-up of asbestos dust and blowing must be performed by vacuum cleaners, with dry sweeping forbidden.

Labor Law Highlights

[¶ 27.8] OSHA Announces Inspection Figures.—The Occupational Safety and Health Administration announced it had made a total of 9,300 inspections in establishments employing more than 1.5 million workers in the first six months of the Act's operation. Assistant Secretary Guenther said 5,636 citations were issued to employers from April 28 to November 1. Only 20% of the establishments inspected were in compliance; another 20% had only minor violations. OSHA received 686

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