

D R A F T

PLAINTIFF'S
EXHIBIT

AL-144

FROM J. Z. NELSON
R. P. CARTER

TO

December 11, 1972

RE: REPLACEMENT OF ASBESTOS-CONTAINING INSULATION BLOCK

Ref: See Attached List

On December 7, 1971, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration issued an emergency standard for worker exposures to asbestos fiber because of what they considered to be a serious hazard to the health of workers having asbestos exposure. On January 4, 1972 OSHA proposed a permanent standard for worker asbestos exposures. On June 7, 1972, a permanent standard was adopted making effective July 7, 1972, the maximum time waited average exposure of five asbestos fibers having a length longer than five micrometers per millimeter of air. With this limit, to be dropped to two fibers per millimeter maximum effective July 1, 1976. This permanent standard also requires the use of engineering controls to meet these limiting exposures where such measures are technically feasible, and allows the use of respirators only in emergencies or where such engineering control methods are either not feasible or feasible methods have failed to meet the required limits.



ALCOA

A listing of correspondence relevant to the standard which has been sent to each Works is attached.

SF-4000 (REV 11-60)

FP

One of the possible means of "engineering control" is to replace the use of asbestos-containing materials ~~which~~ products not containing asbestos. As described in reference six, there is now available an asbestos-free type of insulation block for use in furnace and smelting pot applications in the form of Johns Manville Super-X AF Grades. As soon as the supply of these grades is adequate, we will begin to use these materials for repair and replacement of furnace and pot linings and for construction of new furnaces and pots. However, until all our existing furnace and pot linings have been converted over to the use of the asbestos-free materials, we must utilize practices which will meet the requirements of the permanent exposure standard. This means that we must employ for our furnace and pot lining repair and construction operations a combination of engineering controls and where permissible, use of respirators, to comply with the provisions of the permanent standard. This will necessitate the maintaining of very adequate records of the type of block in use in each pot and furnace insulation until such time as these have all been converted to the use of the asbestos-free type block so that proper use of the required engineering controls and where permissible respirators

can be employed to comply with the standards. This suggests that it may be very desirable to set up some type of card or index file which will reflect the insulation block in each such unit to serve as a ready reference for the maintenance crews to determine when the required engineering controls and use of respirators required for the asbestos exposures must be used. This will require close coordination among the various groups involved at each location for performing these operations and also for monitoring worker exposures. ^{HP} Will each Works please advise us of the definite plans which you have made to accomplish the objective of complying with the asbestos standard during this transition period to the use of asbestos-free insulation block.

RPC/map

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

Attachment #1

R. P. Carter's memorandum dated 12/23/71 to all Industrial Hygienists

RE: EMERGENCY STANDARD FOR EXPOSURE TO ASBESTOS DUST

Attachment #2

George H. Farrah's memorandum dated 4/17/72 to the Chairmen, Environmental Health Steering Committees

RE: INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE NEWSLETTER - ASBESTOS DUST EXPOSURES

Attachment #3

Thomas B. Bonney's memorandum dated 7/1/72 to all Industrial Hygienists, Plant Physicians, Safety Directors

RE: OSHA STANDARD FOR EXPOSURE TO ASBESTOS DUST

Attachment #4

Thomas B. Bonney's memorandum dated 7/20/72 to all Industrial Hygienists, Safety Directors

RE: APPROVED ASBESTOS RESPIRATORY PROTECTION

Attachment #5

Robert P. Carter's memorandum dated 8/21/72 to all Industrial Hygienists

RE: ASBESTOS-CONTAINING REFRACTORY AND INSULATING MATERIALS
USED IN FURNACE AND CASTING EQUIPMENT CONSTRUCTION

Attachment #6

Pittsburgh Purchasing (Industrial Group) memorandum dated 10/4/72

RE: NATIONAL PURCHASE AGREEMENT P-615951
JOHNS-MANVILLE SUPEREX INSULATION BLOCK