

Regulatory Affairs Committee

J. F. Welch
J. F. Welch, Director, Public Affairs

June 26, 1980

U.S. Air Force Policy - Use of Asbestos-Containing Materials

ACTION REQUIRED: *Review for information and comment*

Enclosed is a change recently made to Air Force Manual 88-15, which governs design, specification and construction criteria for U.S. Air Force projects.. The salient portions follow:

"Therefore, to minimize current and future asbestos-related problems, specifications for all construction/modification projects will be reviewed to ensure that asbestos-free products are specified whenever possible. Such review is not mandatory for each use of hard asbestos-containing materials -- such as vinyl asbestos floor tile -- but the use of substitute materials is desirable."

The change further directs that "materials now permitted by AFM 88-15, including A/C pipe, be reviewed in accordance with the guidance above. A/C pipe appears to be classified as a "hard asbestos-containing material".

The language in this change is similar to that promulgated by the Department of Navy in BUMED Instruction 6260.4 (August 9, 1979), "Use of Asbestos-Containing Materials".

"To minimize potential risks, such construction materials (including cement pipe, shingles, wall-board, etc.) should be substituted with asbestos-free materials where suitable substitutes exist. Consideration should be given to factors including but not limited to durability, maintenance requirements fire/heat resistance and cost, to determine acceptability."

It is our understanding that the Navy's policy has had little or no discernible impact on the specification of A/C pipe by the Naval Facilities Engineering Command.

If member companies believe that the Air Force policy change will adversely affect the specification of A/C pipe by that service, then Staff would recommend that AACPP place the industry's position on record and attempt to modify the language. Based on the previous exercise with the Navy, however, such a course of action has limited probability of success. Member companies also may give consideration to the approach of ensuring that every effort is made to ensure that if and when A/C pipe is not specified for USAF projects, it should be determined conclusively that the engineer performed "an engineering study" of substitute materials.

In any instance, Staff recommends that it coordinate with Washington representatives in the presentation of "Recommended Work Practices for A/C Pipe" and "A/C Pipe and Drinking Water".

Please advise us by phone of your recommendations no later than July 9, 1980.

JFW/sgg

Enclosure

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ROUTINE

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FM HQ USAF BOLLING AFB DC//LEE//

TO AIG 9411//DAPD/DE//

RUVKANA/AFMSC BROCKS AFB TX//SGSF//

RUHTUFB/USAFRGNCIVILENGR MAIN TOWER BLDG 1200 MAIN ST DALLAS TX//CR//

RUCLHTH/USAFRGNCIVILENGR 526 TITLE BLDG ATLANTA GA//ER//

RUWNSSS/USAFRGNCIVILENGR 630 SANSONE ST SAN FRANCISCO CA//WR//

INFO RUEAHQA/1947 ASG WASH DC//DASJL//

ZEN/HQ USAF BOLLING AFB DC//DAPD/DADPL//

RUEAHQA/HQ USAF WASH DC//LEE/LEEX/LEEE/LEES//

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SUBJ: INTERIM MESSAGE CHANGE 80-2 TO AFM 88-15, 8 JAN 75.

1. THE CHANGE IMPLEMENTS DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION CRITERIA IN
DASD(E&S), DASD (I&H) MEMORANDUM, ASBESTOS HAZARD IN BUILDINGS,
8 SEP 78.

2. ADD THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPH TO PAGE 1-13:

1-38.1. USE OF ASBESTOS-CONTAINING MATERIALS:

SCIENTIFIC STUDIES SHOW THAT ASBESTOS-CONTAINING MATERIALS
ARE A POTENTIAL HEALTH HAZARD TO CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE PER-
SONNEL AND BUILDING OCCUPANTS. THE HAZARD CONSISTS OF AIRBORNE
ASBESTOS PARTICLES THAT CAN BE INHALED AND HAVE BEEN RELEASED FROM
CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS IN VARIOUS WAYS: FOR EXAMPLE, BY WEAR (SUCH
AS PRODUCED BY RUBBING OR RAIN EROSION), ABUSE, AND BUILDING CON-
STRUCTION AND DEMOLITION ACTIVITIES INVOLVING HANDLING, CUTTING,

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FEDSIM...INFO

AFDSC...INFO

HQ USAF

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PAGE 01

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INSTALLING, AND REMOVING MATERIAL. ALTHOUGH INSTALLED MATERIALS UNDISTURBED BY ANY OF THE FOREGOING ACTIONS CONTRIBUTE LITTLE TO THE NORMAL CONCENTRATION OF ASBESTOS AIR PARTICLES, THE POSSIBILITY OF FUTURE ACTIONS RESULTING IN HIGH RELEASE LEVELS MUST BE RECOGNIZED.

B. THEREFORE, TO MINIMIZE CURRENT AND FUTURE ASBESTOS-RELATED PROBLEMS, SPECIFICATIONS FOR ALL CONSTRUCTION/MODIFICATION PROJECTS WILL BE REVIEWED TO ENSURE THAT ASBESTOS-FREE PRODUCTS ARE SPECIFIED WHENEVER POSSIBLE. SUCH REVIEW IS NOT MANDATORY FOR EACH USE OF HARD ASBESTOS-CONTAINING MATERIALS--SUCH AS VINYL ASBESTOS FLOOR TILE--BUT THE USE OF SUBSTITUTE MATERIALS IS DESIRABLE. THE CHOICE OF A SUBSTITUTE MATERIAL FOR AN INDIVIDUAL PROJECT WILL BE BASED ON AN ENGINEERING STUDY OF THAT PROJECT. INHERENT ENGINEERING QUALITIES OF SUBSTITUTE MATERIALS, SUCH AS RESISTANCE TO FIRE OR FUNGAL GROWTH, PRECLUDE NAMING ONE MATERIAL SUITABLE FOR ALL APPLICATIONS. THE BIODENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER SHALL BE NOTIFIED IN WRITING OF EACH INTENDED USE OF ASBESTOS-CONTAINING MATERIALS.

C. DOD CONSTRUCTION SPECIFICATIONS ARE BEING STUDIED TO DEVELOP CHANGES THAT MAY REDUCE OR ELIMINATE ASBESTOS HAZARDS IN FUTURE CONSTRUCTION. MEANWHILE, ALL PROPOSALS TO USE THE FOLLOWING MATERIALS--NOW PERMITTED BY AFM 88-15--SHOULD BE REVIEWED UNDER GUIDANCE IN B. ABOVE:

- (1) ASBESTOS-CONTAINING ACOUSTIC CEILING TILE.
- (2) CORRUGATED METAL WITH ASBESTOS-FELT PROTECTIVE COATING.
- (3) CORRUGATED CEMENT-ASBESTOS BOARD (SHEET).
- (4) ASPHALT-SATURATED ASBESTOS ROOFING FELT.
- (5) VINYL-ASBESTOS TILE.
- (6) AUTOCLAVED OR PREFINISHED AUTOCLAVED HIGH FLEXURAL STRENGTH CEMENT-ASBESTOS BOARD (FINISH MATERIAL FOR WAINSCOTS).
- (7) CEMENT-ASBESTOS PIPE.

3. MAKE THIS WRITE-IN CHANGE WHICH IS REPEATED FROM CHANGE 3 AND DELETES ASBESTOS CEMENT SHINGLES AS AN APPROVED ITEM.

PAGE	PARAGRAPH	ACTION
17-4	17-8B(1)(A)	DELETE

4. MAKE THE FOLLOWING WRITE-IN CHANGES ON THE PAGES LISTED BELOW:

A. ADD THIS FOOTNOTE TO EACH PAGE: (ASTERISK) SEE PARA 1-38.1 ON ASBESTOS HAZARD.

B. ASTERISK THE HEADING OF THE LISTED PARAGRAPH OR, IF THERE IS NO HEADING, THE PARAGRAPH NUMBER OR LETTER.

C. ASTERISK THE LISTED PART OF IDENTIFIED TABLES AND ATTACHMENTS.

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PAGE	PARAGRAPH	PAGE	PARAGRAPH
3-1	3-1C(6)	10-4	10-11A
3-8	3-12	10-5	10-12A
3-11	3-14	11-1	11-2A(1) (B)
3-17	3-21	11-2	11-2C(2) (B)
3-23	3-28	13-8	13-28F
3-26	3-30	17-4	17-8B
3-36	3-38	17-10	17-19A(2), 17-19B(2)
3-38	3-39G	17-11	17-21B, 17-22B
3-40	3-41	17-12	17-23B, 17-24
6-6	6-23G	17-14	17-26B(4)
PAGE	REFERENCE	PART	
17-17	TABLES 17-1, 17-2	TITLE	
17-19	TABLES 17-3, 17-4	TITLE	
17-21	TABLE 17-5	TITLE	
23-19	TABLE 23-3	TITLE	
A-8	ATTACHMENT 2	HEADING: "INTERIOR FINISHES FOR PERMANENT FACILITIES"	

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