



Shell Oil Company
Interoffice Memorandum

SEPTEMBER 22, 1986

PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT

SH-2934

FORM: SR. INDUSTRIAL HYGIENIST, HEALTH & SAFETY, MFG. & TECH.
TO: SEE ATTACHED DISTRIBUTION LIST
SUBJECT: ASBESTOS SAMPLING PROCEDURES

As you are aware, OSHA in Appendix A of the new Asbestos Standard, published a revised sampling and analytical method. Significant elements of this method include:

1. Use of a 25mm MCE sampling cassette with 50mm extension cowl (Todd Morman reports that these are now available).
2. A recommended airflow rate of 0.5 - 2.5 LPM for personnel monitoring. Higher flow rates are permitted for area samples.
3. A prohibition against using packing material that has a high electrostatic charge on its surface (such as polypropylene pellets). Cassettes should be tightly packed for shipment to minimize movement.
4. A minimum of two (field) blanks should accompany each set of samples. The number of blanks to be submitted is determined by a 10% rule.

Presently, the Westhollow IHL is setting up to do asbestos counting by the OSHA mandatory method. In the interim, the newer 25mm cassettes are being sent to Hager Laboratories.

While the (NIOSH) method previously used by the Shell I.H. lab gave a count of all fibers present, Hager Laboratories is using polarized light to identify fibers which do not resemble asbestos (otherwise referred to as non-birefringent fibers). Such fibers, when rotated in the presence of polarized light, become transparent. Birefringent fibers on the other hand reveal a change in color. Fiberglass and ceramic fibers generally appear as are non-birefringent. Hager Laboratories report that often 20% or more of the fibers are so classified; however, this would obviously be dependent on the material involved. Westhollow's IHL is planning to be able to make this qualitative determination in the future.

It is recommended that when sampling for asbestos, one of the following statement be entered on the I.H. sampling form under "Possible Interferences/Instruction":

Non-asbestos insulation may be present, or
No known interferences

BT8626203

ABS-060429

LAM 031005

Based on this information, Westhollow will when indicated perform the additional determination using polarized light. In addition, this determination will also be made regardless of the potential interference notation where the fiber count exceeds 0.5 f/cc.

If you have any questions concerning this, please let me know.

Thank you.



P. J. Snyder

PJS:bjd

cc: A. D. Ditmar
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