

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION



DATE: September 25, 1975
REPLY TO: 5PBA
ATTN OF:
SUBJECT: Handling of Asbestos
5FJO

Region 5
230 S. Dearborn Street
Chicago, IL 60604

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This will verify our recent discussions on the handling of asbestos in Region 5. I feel with the September 12 NIOSH survey report (previously provided), the guidance in OSHA 1910.93a (Asbestos), and experience of other regions, we can develop an adequate program for handling asbestos now housed at Casad and Marion Depots. That program should be basically as recommended in the NIOSH survey and covers the following areas:

EDUCATION. Provide depot employees information and guidance on asbestos hazards by using NIOSH pamphlets, National Safety Council slide series, the NIOSH survey, OSHA data sheet Form OSHA-20 (previously provided), and monitoring records.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT. Provide protective clothing including head cover. Provide lockers, laundering and shower facilities. Issue, maintain and require use of respirators.

MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS. Provide initial medical examinations and annual reexaminations to personnel (use modified SF 78 Certificate of Medical Examination previously provided.) Maintain records available for employee review.

MONITORING. Take periodic samples to determine time weighted averages of airborne asbestos concentrations.

WARNING SIGNS. Identify warehouse areas containing asbestos and outgoing shipments containing asbestos with warning signs.

DISPOSAL. Handle asbestos waste as other asbestos including collection and disposal.

SPECIAL ACTIONS. Cover and palletize "sugar stacked" asbestos. Do not hand stack asbestos in carriers unless overbagged. Consolidate storage. Use engineering and administrative controls to limit exposure.

The report does not deal with specifics of handling "sugar stacks" with regard to respirators required. I believe the air purifying respirators now used (as opposed to powered air purifying respirators) are sufficient when overbagging. This assumes care in handling the bags, use of conveyors, and other procedures to reduce production of

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airborne asbest s duct. Our survey results and results of Region 7 in handling "sugar stacks" do not suggest the use of powdered air purifiers. If air sampling indicates otherwise, the units should be used in the future, but we can begin work with the existing equipment.

These comments are not appropriate for bulk storage such as maintained at the Erie depot.

This office will be happy to provide further information and assistance in this matter.

Paul D. Rasmussen

PAUL D. RASMUSSEN
Chief, Accident and Fire
Prevention Branch

NOTE: IT DID
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