H & S
Industrial Hygiene

E. E. RUMBERGER

PITTSBURGH OFFICE

TO T. B. BONNEY

PITTSBURGH OFFICE

BDD
EER
RMJ
JES
BEP

JUN 28 1983

SC
DEH
CD
PW
LMN
EDS

1983 June 15

RE: ASBESTOS EXPOSURE AND POTENTIAL HEALTH HAZARD
Ref: I.H. Technical Bulletin No. 83-3 (Attached)

The need for greater control over potential exposures to asbestos is becoming more apparent. The attached Technical Bulletin, prepared by Joan Sander, outlines Alcoa's new policy on exposure levels and industrial hygiene precautions, and reiterates the Medical Department's program for medical surveillance.

Specific requirements are triggered by the Action Level, defined as 0.1 fiber/cc, and the new Alcoa Permissible Limit of 0.5 fibers/cc. At these relatively low concentration levels, the analytical method (P&CAM 239-asbestos fiber count) lacks a high level of precision due to inherent inaccuracies associated with the method. Therefore, a sampling strategy based on several samples should provide a characterization of job tasks, rather than basing decisions on a single sample. Likewise, professional judgment is advised for interpretation of results. Please call upon the Corporate Industrial Hygiene staff for assistance in this area.

Due to the serious health concerns associated with asbestos exposures, all potential exposures to asbestos fibers must be eliminated or controlled to the Alcoa Permissible Limit. Employee training, medical surveillance, routine air monitoring, and personal protective equipment are essential elements of such a control program. Please let us know if we can provide assistance with any aspect of asbestos replacement or control.

E. E. RUMBERGER

EER/eds
Attachment



Distribution:
I.H. Mailing List - I.H. Plant Contacts
Industrial Hygienists - International
I.H. Division - Pittsburgh & ATC
I.H. Technicians
Pittsburgh & ATC - General

ALCOA