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RECOMMENDED HEALTH SAFETY PRACTICES for HANDLING and FABRICATING ASBESTOS TEXTILE PRODUCTS



ASBESTOS TEXTILE INSTITUTE
founded 1944

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INTRODUCTION

Asbestos textile products manufactured from chrysotile asbestos fibers are a growing and indispensable class of materials in industry today. Fabricated products of asbestos textiles are used in many and diverse applications. The strength, chemical resistance, incombustibility, and reinforcement characteristics make asbestos textiles a unique product.

Recently there have been numerous articles in the scientific press, as well as other news media, concerning the potential health risk for workers involved in handling asbestos. Manufacturers of asbestos textile products have for years been taking protective measures to eliminate exposure of their workers to the inhalation of dust.

The Asbestos Textile Institute recognizes that extensive exposure to the inhalation of asbestos dust over a long period of time may be injurious. The following general recommendations for handling and fabricating asbestos textile products are based on the current scientific assessment of the potential health risk and the level of the art in reducing the risk. Particular circumstances, of course, may require different handling or fabricating procedures; obviously, these general recommendations cannot be considered adequate to cover all possible situations.

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HEALTH SAFETY PRACTICES

1. An organized housekeeping program should be maintained in all work areas in order to prevent the generation and accumulation of dust. Vacuum cleaning equipment is recommended rather than sweeping or brushing loose material. If sweeping or brushing is essential, wetting down is recommended.

2. Effective mechanical dust collecting systems, designed to collect dust at the source, should be used where dust above the Federal, State, or Provincial allowable threshold limit is unavoidably created.

3. Where mechanical dust collection systems are impractical, and dust is unavoidably created above the allowable threshold limit, U.S. Bureau of Mines approved respiratory equipment* should be worn.

4. During the fabricating or processing operations dust may be effectively minimized by dampening or wetting the material.

5. Asbestos textiles which are manufactured by a damp process, or which are treated, minimize dust in subsequent handling and fabricating and are therefore recommended.

6. Isolation and frequent collection of waste and dust is important. This waste material should be disposed of in closed containers.

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RECOMMENDED HEALTH SAFETY PRACTICES

For Handling And Applying Thermal Insulation Products Containing Asbestos

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NATIONAL INSULATION MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION

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