CL22-30/S39 (350)

FM:MAY
8-11-43
(356)

[AUG 1943]

From: The Chief of the Bureau of Ships
To: The Supervisor of Shipbuilding, USN, Camden, N. J.

SUBJECT: Insulation - Water Repellent Amosite for Cold Water Piping.

Reference:
(a) SupShips Camden ltr CV22 Class/S39 Serial 21832 dated 31 May 1943 to BuShips.

1. Reference (a) with its enclosures and a sample of water repellent amosite felt was forwarded to the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery for comment.

2. The following comment has been received:

"1. Information has been received that a mineral wool insulating material has been developed and is now undergoing physical tests. If this material meets specifications and is substituted for the water repellent amosite it is the opinion that the material will not present the occupational hazards incident to the use of water repellent amosite.

"2. Where water repellent amosite continues to be used it is recommended that:

a. Workers be equipped with approved types of respirators.
b. Annual chest photofluorograms of exposed employees be made.
c. Appraisal of atmospheric contamination by vacuum cleaner or similar technique be conducted.
d. Observations on the sodium silicate sprayed material which seems to have reduced the dust concentration be continued.

"3. Under the conditions prevailing in naval vessels, it appears impracticable to utilize local exhaust hoods for effective removal of asbestos dust and it is suggested that other possibilities for improving local ventilation be explored. Public Health Bulletin No. 241 of the U.S.P.H.S. discusses various methods of engineering control."

3. Since mineral wool insulating material which is now undergoing tests will not be available for use in the immediate future, it will be necessary to continue the use of the water repellent amosite felt. The precautions recommended by the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, as quoted above, should be observed.

[E. L. MacCum
By direction]

CC: BUMAS

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