cc: Colon Brown
J. P. Hayes
J. W. Duncan
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L. B. Crowell

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JOHNS-MANVILLE
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May 16, 1968

Mr. F. H. Zimmerman
Director of Safety
National Cypsum Company
Gold Bond Building
Buffalo, New York

Dear Frank:

A joint meeting of the Asbestos Building Products Manufacturers Environmental Health Council and the Mineral Fiber Products Bureau will be held on Monday, June 17, 1968 in the Johns-Manville Board Room, 22 East 40th Street, New York City, at 10:00 A.M.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss coordination and possible consolidation of both organizations for the purpose of handling health safety problems in the Asbestos-Cement Building Products industry.

Sincerely,

C. L. Sheckler/Emz

C. L. Sheckler, Manager
Occupational Environmental Control

CLS/ems

(over)

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THE KODY KORNER 137

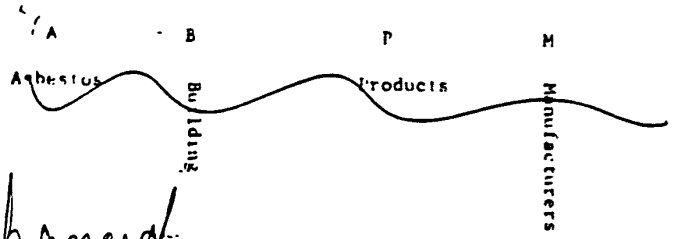
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RECOMMENDED

HEALTH SAFETY

PRACTICES

FOR HANDLING
AND APPLYING
ASBESTOS-CEMENT
PRODUCTS IN
THE BUILDING
AND CONSTRUCTION
INDUSTRIES



Name changed to Environmental Health

36178

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FOR HEALTH SAFETY'S
SAKE

Three major points to keep in mind in the handling and applying of materials containing asbestos:

. Take every precaution to keep dust to a minimum.

. Wear U.S. Bureau of Mines-approved Respirators when exposed to excessive dusts. (See Page)

. Maintain good housekeeping at all times.

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INTRODUCTION

The development and production of hundreds of natural and synthetic material including asbestos-cement products has brought the need to protect workers from certain health risks, known or suspected.

Manufacturers of asbestos-cement products have for years been taking protective measures to eliminate excessive exposures to inhalation of dusts that may be injurious.

The handling and application of asbestos-cement products is very diverse and ranges from the installation of a single piece to extensive operations involving cutting and machining by mechanical equipment. Whiel care should always be exercised, special precautions are necessary when excessive dusts, including asbestos, are generated as the result of sawing, drilling or other similar operations.

Experience has shown that all materials can be handled with no adverse effects to health provided proper precautions are taken. The Asbestos Building Products Manufacturers recommend the following practices for handling and applying asbestos-cement products in the building and construction industries. Contractors and applicators are urged to study these recommended practices carefully and to see that they are observed by all workers handling asbestos-cement materials. As with Safety Regulations, it is in the interest of both employer and employee to see that health protection practices are strictly observed.

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HOUSEKEEPING

An organized housekeeping program should be maintained in <u>all</u> areas and on <u>all</u> operations at <u>all</u> times.

A major source of excessive airbrone dust is from loose materials, scrap and debris distributed throughout the job area and disintegrated by trampling on running over, etc. Much of the airborne contamination can be eliminated by exercising simple good housekeeping practices.

Specific standards and practices designed for providing safe, clean and orderly working conditions should be defined.

Efficient supervisory control, planning of systematic cleaning plus day to day follow-up are the basic requirements for dust control and injury prevention.

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SHIPPING, HANDLING AND STORAGE

Under normal conditions, unit load handling and storage of asbestos-cement products including roofing and siding shingles, flat and corrugated sheets, asbestos-cement pipe, etc., present no environmental health problems.

When handling individual pieces of flat and corrugated asbestos sheets, care should be taken when placing one sheet on top of the other to avoid creating excessive airborne dust and breakage.

If breakage of asbestos-cement products occurs, broken pieces of material should be cleaned up and disposed of to avoid disintegration by trampling on, running over etc. which may create excessive dust.

Handling and storage of bags containing asbestos fiber cements etc. present no environmental health hazards, providing bags are unopened and not broken. Open or broken bags should be repacked, resealed or discarded to prevent dust distribution throughout working areas. Spillage should be cleaned up immediately.

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FABRICATION AND APPLICATION

When moving asbestos-cement products to and from the fabrication site, individual pieces of materials should be handled with care to avoid creating excessive airborne dust and breakage.

Fabrication of asbestos-cement products involving cutting, drilling, sawing, etc., should be done in a manner that will minimize airborne dust. The use of proper methods, tools and equipment will contribute considerably toward dust abatement.

When cutting drilling, sawing, etc. on a repeated basis with power equipment, mechanical dust collecting systems adequately designed to remove dust from the source should be used. If mechanical dust collecting systems cannot be used and excessive dust is generated, *respirators should be worn.

In confined spaces, fabrication of asbestos-cement products require special precautions. Provide mechanical dust collecting systems adequately designed to remove dust from the source. If conditions prevent collecting dust at the source, use exhaust blowers to provide continual general room air changes. Avoid exhausting these blowers into other work areas. If exhaust equipment cannot be used, *respirators should be worn.

Provide waste containers at all fabrication and application areas. Dispose of unusable material immediately. Keep floors and surfaces clean. Dust and small particles created during fabrication and application should be cleaned up. Vacuum equipment is recommended for this cleaning. If vacuum equipment cannot be used, wet down waste material before sweeping and shoveling. If excessive dust is generated during clean-up *respirators should be worn.

*Bureau of Mines - approved respirators - See Page

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RESPIRATORY EQUIPMENT

Only U. S. Bureau of Mines-approved respiratory equipment is recommended for use with asbestos, silica and other pneumoconiosis-producing dusts. Approved respiratory equipment must be used at all operations where dust control is not sufficient to maintain airborne dust concentration within allowable limits for asbestos and other pneumoconiosis producing dusts, as established by governmental and professional agencies.

The efficiency and effectiveness of respiratory equipment is dependent upon proper care, cleaning and maintenance. A systematic procedure should be established to assure that this is done.

Lists of currently approved respiratory equipment can be obtained from:

Bureau of Mines
United States Department of the Interior
Nineteenth and E Streets, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20240

American Industrial Hygiene Association
14125 Prevost
Detroit, Michigan 48227

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