

UNION CARBIDE

CATALYSTS AND SYSTEMS

INTERNAL CORRESPONDENCE

Molecular Sieve Department
Tarrytown Technical Center
Tarrytown, New York

TO: W. P. Fethke

DATE: 17 June 1986

CC: R. T. Gajek
R. J. Hinchey
F. D. Lutz
R. A. Reber
T. M. Reynolds
J. P. Sicard
E. T. Wolynic

SUBJECT: Removal of Asbestos Pipe Insulation from Lab 77L

RECEIVED
JUN 18 1986
W. P. FETHKE

On two occasions Allied shop personnel have removed pipe insulation that was believed to be asbestos. It is my opinion that in both instances the work was not done safely. Additional insulation removal is planned and I would like some reassurance that the safety practices will be in accordance with Company policy. To better understand the reason for my concern a summary of these two occurrences is as follows:

On 9 January 1986 Allied personnel began working on the relocation of several feet of pipe in order to provide the necessary head clearance for construction of an office/instrument area in 77L. After removing part of the insulation as if it were not hazardous the work was stopped by MPT personnel. The workmen discussed with their supervisor the possibility that the material was asbestos. It was decided to handle the job as if this was the case. The Linde safety coordinator and site hygienist were notified. I was assured that the workmen knew how to safely remove asbestos. Plastic covers were placed over some of the benches, shelves and desks. Air samplers were set up and

AU4335

operated during the removal. The lab ventilation was turned off. The workers wore respiratory protection. The insulation was wetted and removed. Upon completion of the removal the material and all but one of the plastic covers was removed from the lab. MPT's shop vacuum was used to clean up the particulates that fell to the floor. The material collected by the air samplers was positively identified as amosite asbestos. A report by the hygienist indicates that exposure to asbestos fibers was less than the permissible level of 2 fiber/cc. The one plastic cover that was left behind was removed by the night clean-up crew.

On 14 April 1986 Allied workers removed several feet of insulation pipes in lab 32L. This job was also handled as if the material was asbestos, that is, the workers wore dust masks, wet the insulation and bagged it for disposal. No air monitors were used. Within an hour of completing the removal job maintenance personnel were working in the room without respiratory protection.

I would like to arrange for a meeting to address the comments and questions listed below.

Could a qualified representative of UCC Safety visit TTC to tell us the proper procedure for asbestos removal. This may be a good topic for a safety meeting.

There was insufficient pre-job discussion involving MPT personnel.

MPT asked to have a filter installed on the air supply duct in 77L to stop the slow accumulation of black particulate matter that deposits on otherwise clean surfaces such as table tops. Site engineering has recommended that the air supply duct be cleaned instead. What is in it?

Should not before, during and after the job air samples be taken with regard to every such job?

I fail to see the logic in wearing a dust mask while doing the work yet 1 hour later it is safe to work in the same area without a mask.

One plastic cover went into the garbage rather than hazardous waste. Are we sure that all the insulation was properly disposed of?

Is a Sears shop vacuum the proper tool for cleaning up asbestos particles?

There are still asbestos particles on the floor of 77L. How are they to be cleaned up?

A04331

Are there government agencies that must be notified of asbestos removal jobs?

Does the site hygienist know that the air samplers were turned off immediately after completion of the work in 77L?

How do we handle the rendering safe of the remaining shredded pipe insulation in 77L?

A memo from T. M. Reynolds in which he expresses his concern is attached. It was not distributed as Tom and I decided to combine our thoughts in this memo. A copy of the Site hygienist's report and a Profs note that I sent to WPF on 9 January 1986 is also attached.

A. J. Caglione

A. J. Caglione

/AJC
attach.
2211Z

A04337