ADDITIONAL COPIES

For additional copies of this brochure, contact your local Johns-Manville office, or write to:

Johns-Manville Corporation
Health, Safety & Environment Department
P.O. Box 5108
Denver, CO 80217
U.S.A.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For additional information on the safe handling of asbestos fiber, we suggest you write to:

U.S.A.
Asbestos Information Association/NA
1835 K Street, NW Suite 402
Washington, D.C. 20006

CANADA
Quebec Asbestos Mining Association
5 Place Ville Marie
Montreal 113, Quebec
Canada

UNITED KINGDOM
The Asbestos Information Committee
10 Wardour Street
London, WIV 3HG
England

IN OTHER COUNTRIES, contact the asbestos industry association or government unit that deals with occupational health.

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HSE-11PR-676

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Recommended Safety Practices for Handling Asbestos Fiber

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Recommended Safety Practices for Handling Asbestos Fiber

GENERAL PRECAUTIONS

In all stages of handling — packaging, transporting, unloading, storing, and in-plant moving — asbestos fiber bags should be handled carefully and in such a manner as to prevent damage of bags and the generation of dust.

Damaged bags should be immediately repaired, resealed or put into closed receptacles. Any spillage of asbestos fiber should be cleaned up immediately — either by vacuum equipment or, after thoroughly wetting, by sweeping — and should be deposited in suitable closed receptacles.

Consult and observe OSHA regulations governing asbestos in the workplace; EPA rules on discharge to the ambient air; and other local codes, rules or regulations controlling the handling and use of asbestos fiber.

UNLOADING

Unitized loads should be lifted intact to and from holds of ships, and off and on land transport by forklift trucks or other suitable handling equipment.

Care should be taken to avoid puncturing the asbestos fiber bags during unloading from ships, railroad cars, trucks or other modes of transportation. Hooks or other sharp instruments *should not* be used. Loose fiber accumulated during transit should be picked up by vacuum cleaner *before* unloading.

STORAGE

For storage, fiber bags should be stacked and moved with care to avoid breakage; protected from puncture by moving vehicles; and, if possible, should be isolated from traffic in the warehouse and covered to prevent dust generation. To prevent deterioration of stored bags, the principle of first-in, first-out should be followed.

HANDLING

Maximum possible enclosure and fully effective dust control systems should be provided at all stages of in-plant handling where dust is created, such as in bag opening, fiber dumping and bag disposal operations. Loose fiber should be cleaned from work areas by vacuum cleaner, or after thoroughly wetting, by sweeping, and then deposited in covered receptacles.

PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

Wearing of respiratory equipment approved for protection against asbestos dust should be required at all stages of asbestos fiber handling where quantities of dust are generated which cannot be kept within the Threshold Limit Value by dust control equipment or other methods.

TRANSPORT

Where the use of asbestos requires the transport of loose fiber in open carts or buggies, covers should be used to prevent spilling and dust generation.

WASTE MATERIALS

Waste materials, such as collected dust and empty fiber bags, should be placed in special closed receptacles and disposed of in such a manner as to prevent the release of dust. Safety practices outlined above in the *HANDLING* and *PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT* sections should be followed during these operations.

All dust from exhaust systems should be collected and safely disposed of, being careful not to release dust into the outside air. Particular attention should be paid to the protection of employees whose job it is to dispose of collected dust from fabric filter dust collection and similar cleaning operations.

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