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IMEA 4004

STATUTORY RULES AND ORDERS,

1931, No. 1140

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP

Dangerous and Unhealthy Industries

THE ASBESTOS INDUSTRY REGULATIONS, 1931, DATED DECEMBER 31, 1931, MADE BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE UNDER SECTION 79 OF THE FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1901 (1 EDW. 7. C. 22).

In pursuance of Section 79 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, I hereby make the following Regulations and direct that they shall apply to all factories and workshops or parts thereof in which the following processes or any of them are carried on :—

(i) breaking, crushing, disintegrating, opening and grinding of *asbestos*, and the mixing or sieving of *asbestos*, and all processes involving manipulation of *asbestos* incidental thereto ;

(ii) all processes in the manufacture of *asbestos textiles*, including preparatory and finishing processes ;

(iii) the making of insulation slabs or sections, composed wholly or partly of *asbestos*, and processes incidental thereto ;

(iv) the making or repairing of insulating mattresses, composed wholly or partly of *asbestos*, and processes incidental thereto ;

(v) sawing, grinding, turning, abrading and polishing, in the dry state, of articles composed wholly or partly of *asbestos* in the manufacture of such articles ;

(vi) the cleaning of any chambers, fixtures and appliances for the collection of *asbestos* dust produced in any of the foregoing processes.

Provided that nothing in these Regulations shall apply to any factory or workshop or part thereof in which the process of mixing of *asbestos* or repair of insulating mattresses or any process specified in (v) or any cleaning of machinery or other plant used in connection with any such process, is carried on, so long as (*a*) such process or work is carried on occasionally only and no person is employed therein for more than eight hours in any week, and (*b*) no other process specified in the foregoing paragraphs is carried on.

Provided further, that if the Chief Inspector of Factories is satisfied in respect of any factory or workshop or part thereof that by reason of the restricted use of *asbestos* or the methods of working or otherwise, all or any of these Regulations can be suspended or relaxed without danger to the health of the persons employed therein, he may by certificate in writing authorise such suspension or relaxation under such conditions as he may think fit. Any such certificate may be revoked at any time.

These Regulations may be cited as the Asbestos Industry Regulations, 1931, and shall come into force on the 1st March, 1932, except that Regulations 2 (*a*) and 5 shall not come into force until six months after the said date, and Regulation 1 (*a*) (ii), so far as it applies to looms, Regulation 3 (i) and (ii) (*a*) and Regulation 4 (*b*) shall not come into force until twelve months after the said date.

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Definitions.•

Asbestos means any fibrous silicate mineral, and any admixture containing any such mineral, whether crude, crushed or opened.

Asbestos textiles means yarn or cloth composed of *asbestos* or *asbestos* mixed with any other material.

Preparing means crushing, disintegrating, and any other process in or incidental to the opening of *asbestos*.

Approved means approved for the time being in writing by the Chief Inspector of Factories.

Breathing Apparatus means (1) a helmet or face piece with necessary connections by means of which a person using it breathes air free from dust, or (2) any other *approved* apparatus.

Duties.

It shall be the duty of the occupier to observe Part I of these Regulations.

It shall be the duty of every person employed to observe Part II of these Regulations.

PART I.—DUTIES OF OCCUPIERS.

1. An exhaust draught effected by mechanical means which prevents the escape of *asbestos* dust into the air of any room in which persons work, shall be provided and maintained for—

(*a*) manufacturing and conveying machinery, namely :—
  (i) *preparing*, grinding or dry mixing machines ;
  (ii) carding, card waste-end, ring spinning machines, and looms ;
  (iii) machines or other plant fed with *asbestos* ;
  (iv) machines used for the sawing, grinding, turning, abrading or polishing, in the dry state, of articles composed wholly or partly of *asbestos* ;

(*b*) cleaning and grinding of the cylinders or other part of a carding machine ;

(*c*) chambers, hoppers or other structures into which loose *asbestos* is delivered or passes ;

(*d*) work benches for *asbestos* waste sorting or for other manipulation of *asbestos* by hand ;

(*e*) work places at which the filling or emptying of sacks, skips or other portable containers, weighing, or other process incidental thereto which is effected by hand, is carried on ;

(*f*) sack-cleaning machines.

Provided that this Regulation shall not apply (i) to a machine or other plant which does not give rise to *asbestos* dust, or is so enclosed as to prevent escape of *asbestos* dust into the air of any room in which persons work, or (ii) where the *asbestos* is so wet or so treated with grease or other material as to prevent the evolution of dust, or (iii) to the making or repairing of insulating mattresses, or (iv) to mixing or blending by hand of *asbestos*.

2.—(*a*) Mixing or blending by hand of *asbestos* shall not be carried on except with an exhaust draught effected by mechanical means so designed and maintained as to ensure as far as practicable the suppression of dust during the processes.

(*b*) In premises which are constructed or reconstructed after the date of these Regulations the mixing or blending by hand of *asbestos* shall not be done except in a special room or place in which no other work is ordinarily carried on.

• Terms to which defined meanings are given are printed throughout in italics.

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3.—(i) The making or repairing of insulating mattresses composed wholly or partly of *asbestos* shall not be carried on in any room in which any other work is done.

(ii) In every room in which the making or repairing of insulating mattresses is carried on—

(*a*) adequate exhaust and inlet ventilation in accordance with arrangements to be *approved* in each case shall be provided and maintained ;

(*b*) no person other than those engaged in filling, beating, or levelling shall be present whilst such processes are being carried on and work shall not be resumed in the room after filling, beating or levelling, for at least ten minutes ;

(*c*) the floors and benches shall be kept damped so as effectually to prevent dust arising therefrom ; and

(*d*) the covers shall be effectually damped immediately after being cut out and in the case of fibre filled mattresses; shall be kept damp whilst filling, beating or levelling is being carried on.

4.—(*a*) Storage chambers or bins for loose *asbestos* shall, in the case of premises constructed or reconstructed after the date of these Regulations, be effectually separated from any workroom and, in the case of other premises, be effectually separated from any workroom in which the *asbestos* is not required for the purposes of any process carried on in the room ;

(*b*) chambers or apparatus for dust settling and filtering shall not be allowed in any workroom ;

(*c*) arrangements shall be made to prevent *asbestos* dust discharged from exhaust apparatus being drawn into the air of any workroom.

5.—All machinery used in *preparing*, grinding of *asbestos*, carding, card roller cleaning and grinding, and sack-cleaning and all card waste-end machines, lattices, elevators, chutes and conveyors shall be so constructed and maintained that dust or debris containing *asbestos* cannot escape from any part thereof other than dust removed by an exhaust draught provided in accordance with Regulation 1.

6.—(*a*) Cleaning by hand, of the cylinders (including the doffer cylinders) of a carding machine, shall not be done whilst any person other than those performing or assisting at the cleaning is present.

(*b*) On and after the 1st September, 1932, such cleaning as aforesaid shall not be done by means of hand strickles or other hand tools.

7.—(1) In every room in which any of the requirements of these Regulations apply—

(*a*) the floors, work benches and plant shall be kept in a cleanly state and free from *asbestos* debris and suitable arrangements shall be made for the storage of *asbestos* not immediately required for use ;

(*b*) the floors shall be kept free from any materials, plant or other articles not immediately required for the work carried on in the room which would obstruct the proper cleaning of the floor ; and

(2) Every room as aforesaid shall be adequately lighted.

8.—(*a*) A sack which has contained *asbestos* shall not be cleaned by hand beating out by a machine, complying with Regulations 1 and 5.

(*b*) All sacks used as containers for the transport of *asbestos* within the factory shall be constructed of impermeable material and shall be kept in good repair.

9.—(*a*) All ventilating plant used for the purpose of extracting or suppressing dust as required by these Regulations shall at least once in every six months

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be thoroughly examined and tested by a competent person and any defect disclosed by such examination and test shall be rectified forthwith.

(*b*) A Register containing particulars of such examination and test and the state of the plant and the repairs or alterations (if any) found to be necessary shall be kept, and shall be available for inspection by any of His Majesty's Inspectors of Factories.

10. A *breathing apparatus* shall be provided for every person employed—

(*a*) in chambers containing loose *asbestos* ;

(*b*) in cleaning dust settling or filtering chambers or apparatus ;

(*c*) in cleaning the cylinders, including the doffer cylinders, or other part of a carding machine by means of hand strickles ;

(*d*) in filling, beating, or levelling in the manufacture or repair of insulating mattresses.

11. There shall be provided and maintained for the use of all persons employed in the cleaning of dust settling and filtering chambers, tunnels and ducts, suitable overalls and head-coverings.

12. A young person shall not be employed in or in connection with the manufacture of insulating mattresses, in mixing or blending of *asbestos* by hand, in sack cleaning, in chambers or apparatus for dust settling or filtering, in chambers containing loose *asbestos*, or in stripping or grinding the cylinders including the doffer cylinders or other part of a carding machine.

Provided that nothing in this Regulation shall affect any young person so employed at the commencement of these Regulations.

Part II.—Duties of Persons Employed.

13. No person employed shall wilfully or negligently disregard any directions given him for the purpose of securing the observance of these Regulations or otherwise for the prevention of unnecessary dust.

14. Every person employed shall make full and proper use of the appliances provided for any of the purposes of these Regulations.

15. No person shall misuse or wrongfully interfere in any way with any appliance provided in pursuance of these Regulations.

16. Every person employed at work specified in Regulation 10 shall wear and make proper use of the *breathing apparatus* provided in pursuance of that Regulation.

17. Every person employed at the work specified in Regulation 11 shall wear the overall and head-covering provided in pursuance of that Regulation.

Herbert Samuel.

One of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State.

Whitehall.
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