

Study on Work Environment in Asbestos-Using Industry

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Abstract

A study on the present condition of the occupational environment of asbestos-using industries was conducted. Two asbestos-using industries were subjected to the same work environment measurement and evaluation. Harmful work environment factors such as asbestos fibers, dust and noise were measured at various work points in the plants to determine the exposure profile of workers. Results indicated that asbestos exposure concentrations in the two plants were below its Threshold Limit Value; among all workareas, highest concentrations occurred at the loading section; the major component of dust in both plants was Calcite (CaCO_3) which comes from added cement and chrysotile with the highest concentration of 18.46% in plant B; generally, all noise levels in the workareas in both plants were within the permissible level and differences in noise levels at the same workareas of the two (2) plants may be attributed to factors such as production capacity, size and type of machines. Recommendations were given based on the evaluated results of the work environment measurements.