
**ASBESTOS:
New Product Survey Report**

**Prepared By Thomas E. Boecher
DeLisle Associates LTD
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FOCUS

DeLisle Associates, LTD (DA), an industrial hygiene firm in Portage, Michigan conducted an Asbestos and Lead Symposium at its facility on June 2, 1999. During that event, Phil King, an Environmental Protection Agency specialist and program administrator, talked about the current status of asbestos in America. He indicated that much of the asbestos product manufacturer's ban initiated by the EPA in 1989 was overturned by a Circuit Court in 1991. As a result, many products overturned were not banned from manufacture and sale within the United States and can still be found in society! As a result of these findings, DA undertook the following project.

PURPOSE

DA began this project with the purpose of confirming or nullifying the presence of asbestos in building materials available for purchase by consumers of America. DA's goal with this "new product survey" (NPS) was not to create panic in the general public or 'blow the whistle' on product manufacturers, who according to regulation do not appear to be breaking the law. The goal of this project was to help DA's asbestos inspectors and consultants provide better service to its clients and hopefully reduce exposures to asbestos containing material.

METHODOLOGY

The products included for analysis in this June 1999 survey were selected based upon physical characteristics of asbestos containing material. Products that typically require some amount of heat, chemical and electrical resistance abilities according to their use, were selected. Industries which require their products to have these properties include the construction, automotive and home improvement industries.

Products were selected by three individuals employed full-time by DA. These individuals had extensive asbestos experience as well as safety and health experience. They were briefed on characteristic products and the stores that would typically carry those product lines. An initial survey of stores by each inspector revealed a list of suspect products, and any products were duplicated by the inspectors were limited to one example only. Then, 20 products were selected from the inspector's lists. Of *that* list, fifteen random products were purchased from three retail home improvement stores in the Kalamazoo, Michigan area, sampled from homogeneous sampling points, and sent to three independent laboratories for analysis.

LABORATORY ANALYSIS

Three professional laboratories were consulted in providing analysis of the product samples. The laboratories were accredited by either the National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program (NVLAP) or the American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA) national accreditation programs. The laboratories included EMSL Analytical, Inc. in Ann Arbor, Michigan, LabCorp in Richmond, Virginia and the DeLisle Associates LTD Asbestos Lab. The samples were taken from the similar areas on all products and sent by express mail to the different labs. All samples were objective and analyzed by Polarized Light Microscopy. The non-DA Lab sample reports were not shown to the DA Lab Technician to preserve the objective analysis of the samples. The results were as follows:

Laboratory Test Results

<u>Product</u>	<u>DA Asbestos Lab</u>	<u>LabCorp</u>	<u>EMSL Analytical</u>
1.) Sexaurer Replacement Kit	30% Chrysotile	95% Chrysotile	45 % Chrysotile
2.) Exhaust Bandage (NAPA)	ND	ND	ND
3.) Dumaco-Chrome Pltd Nzle Washer	ND	ND	ND
4.) MOEN Fiber Washer (A)	ND	ND	ND
5.) MOEN Fiber Washer (B)	ND	ND	ND
6.) EmberGLOW Glowing Embers	ND	ND	ND
7.) RockTite Expansion Cement	ND	ND	ND
8.) Lantern Wick	ND	ND	ND
9.) Nic Sand Canadian Sanding Discs	ND	ND	ND
10.) DAP 33" Window Glazing	ND	ND	<1% Amosite*
11.) Fireblock 1380 Code Caulk	ND	ND	ND
12.) Plumb Shop Sink Strainer Gasket	ND	ND	ND
13.) Herschel Adams Brake Clip (JD)	40%Chrysotile	40%Chrysotile	45%Chrysotile
14.) G-15 Exhaust Gasket	ND	ND	ND
15.) Monsey Prem. Wet/Dry Roof Cement	8% Chrysotile	15% Chrysotile	7%Chrysotile

ND= No asbestos detected

* Asbestos containing material have greater than 1% asbestos by weight.

SUMMARY

The results were conclusive and similar regarding the materials that tested positive for asbestos content. The concentrations varied, which could be partly due to sampling areas and the amount of sample submitted to each lab. The types of asbestos containing material (ACM) were identical between the three labs.

The results confirm that asbestos products are being produced and circulated within the general consumer's purchase arena. None on the products sampled had labels prominently indicating the presence of asbestos containing materials.

CONCLUSION

The test results received substantiated the EPA's claim that materials are being made which contain asbestos. DA was surprised to find this is true. This product survey was financed entirely by DeLisle Associates LTD and did not receive any special considerations by any state or federal agencies for conducting this survey. Any questions or comments concerning this report should be directed to Thomas Boecher of DA at (616) 373-4500.

Thomas E. Boecher
Training/ Industrial Hygiene Supervisor
DeLisle Associates LTD