



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Applicability Determination Index

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Category: Asbestos
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Title: Facility Components Covered/Coated with Asb.
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Subparts: Part 61, M, Asbestos

References: 61.141
61.145(a)

Abstract:

Ceiling tile which has become "covered or coated" with asbestos that has fallen from sprayed-on structural asbestos insulation is subject to the NESHAP if the threshold of 160 square feet is exceeded. Removal of the ceiling tile constitutes a renovation because facility components are altered in this process.

Letter:

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

MAY 2 1991

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Applicability of the Asbestos NESHAP to "Facility Components "Covered or Coated" with Asbestos Containing Materials

FROM: John B. Rasnic, Acting Direct
Stationary Source Compliance Division
Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards

Michael S. Alushin
Associate Enforcement Counsel for Air Enforcement

TO: Conrad Simon, Director
Air & Waste Management Division
Region II

This is in response to your question on whether the Asbestos NESHAP includes as a covered "renovation activity," the removal of nonasbestos ceiling tile which has become "covered or coated" with asbestos on structural insulation above the tile or disturbed as a result of work performed above the tile.

The issue arose as a result of a renovation at the Jacob Javitz Plaza wherein the General Services Administration ("GSA"), through its contractors, removed drop-ceiling tile to enable them to replace the ceiling and lighting fixtures above. These ceiling tiles were covered with asbestos that had either degraded from the sprayed on structural insulation above or had been disturbed in the process of removing the tile and performing the work. The area of concern exceeded 160 square feet.

In our view, the Asbestos NESHAP does apply to such a renovation activity. That is, any renovation operation involving a facility component, as defined in 40 CFR .61.141, that contains, is covered with, or is coated with RACM as stated in Section 61.145(c)(2) which is being taken out of the facility as a unit or in sections, is subject to the regulation. The removal of the ceiling tile, exceeding the threshold amount (that is 260 linear feet on pipes, 160 square feet on other facility components or 35 cubic feet off facility components), constitutes a renovation operation because it alters one or more facility components, including the removal of RACM from the facility component. The Asbestos NESHAP defines "remove" as to take out RACM or facility components that contain or are covered with RACM from any facility. Since the aforementioned renovation included the removal of greater than 160 square feet of ceiling tile which was "covered or coated" with RACM, such an activity is subject to the requirements set forth by the NESHAP: notification, work practices, no visible emissions, collection and waste disposal practices.

In summary we believe that the removal of ceiling tile "coated or covered" with RACM which is disturbed or taken out of the facility is subject to the Asbestos NESHAP. If you have any Questions, please contact Omayra Salgado of my staff at FTS 398-8728 or Sharon Kivowitz of the Regional Counsel Office, Region II at FTS 264-2211.

cc: Air Compliance Branch Chiefs
Asbestos NESHAP Coordinators
Sims Roy, SDB
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