



2600SEG243
FIBERGLASS HANDLING STANDARD

1.0. PURPOSE

The purpose of this standard is to establish uniform procedures to protect employees at work sites from contamination, skin and respiratory irritations caused by exposure to fiberglass dust. The procedures described herein shall be followed when performing coating, sealing, insulation, removal, or other work that can expose workers to contact with fiberglass materials.

2.0. BACKGROUND

This standard supersedes the safety policy and procedures in the Panama Canal Commission Personnel Manual, Chapter 790, Appendix M.

3.0. SCOPE

This standard shall apply to all Panama Canal Authority (ACP) employees, contractors, and third parties in facilities, industrial shops, and areas under ACP responsibility.

4.0. LEGAL BASIS

This standard is based on Agreement No. 12 of the ACP Board of Directors, Safety and Occupational Health Regulations, Chapter I, Articles 8 and 16.

5.0. DEFINITIONS

5.1. Minor Work: Timely, short work for specific maintenance or repairs at any location, i.e., repair of insulation on a tugboat, or the replacement of fiberglass in a ventilation system duct.

5.2. Major Work: Routine work during which employees must handle fiberglass on a daily basis, such as the fabrication of ventilation duct insulation, power engine insulation, or insulation for exhaust pipes for motorboats and tugboats.

6.0. GENERAL

6.1. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

6.1.1. Repairs or removal shall be done as promptly as possible after establishing the extent of the exposure to fiberglass materials or parts with signs of deterioration.

6.1.2. Businesses that perform major fiberglass work shall have an isolated facility built for such application, which shall comply with the following minimum requirements:

6.1.2.1 The exterior of all areas involved in fiberglass work shall be permanently marked as areas where fiberglass work is performed.

6.1.2.2 Operations that generate large amounts of fiberglass shall have ventilation and collection systems to minimize personal exposure.

6.1.2.3 The facility shall have dedicated showers for employees assigned to this work.

6.1.2.4 These areas shall be cleaned with vacuum cleaners equipped with HEPA filters and precautions shall be taken to ensure that the fibers are not carried outside the area by the air.



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6.1.3. "FIBERGLASS WORK" signs shall be posted at minor fiberglass work areas and access of personnel without the proper protective equipment shall not be allowed. Ventilation for on-site collection shall be used where applicable.

6.2. PERSONAL PROTECTION

6.2.1. Management shall be responsible for coordinating, implementing, and maintaining the following personal protection procedures:

6.2.1.1. Obtain and use fiberglass respirators and comply with the requirements to use radiological protection, as specified in Respiratory Protection Standard 2600SEG205. In the case of major repairs, consult the Manager, Industrial Hygiene Section.

6.2.1.2. Prior to going to the work site, change from street clothes to disposable coveralls with hoods. Tape around wrists and neck for a more effective closure. Do not use street clothes under disposable protective coveralls.

6.2.1.3. Use blocker creams; they will help prevent fiberglass from entering the skin.

6.2.1.4. At the end of the work shift, shower or clean up with water while wearing the full protection equipment. Do not use pressure air hoses.

6.2.1.5. After removing fiberglass with water, remove the disposable protective clothing and respirators. Place them in well closed plastic bags. Label these plastic bags to indicate that they contain fiberglass contaminated items.

6.2.1.6. Then shower and dress up in the locker room.

6.3. WASTE

6.3.1. All fiberglass work shall be planned and performed by generating the least amount of waste possible.

6.3.2. Waste disposal shall be done at sanitary landfills in plastic bags labeled as fiberglass.

6.4. TRAINING

6.4.1. Employees who will be exposed to fiberglass shall receive instructions on respiratory protection, the use of personal protective clothing, and personal hygiene. Such training shall be provided by Industrial Hygienists or other competent health personnel.

6.5 RECORDKEEPING AND ACCESS TO DATA

6.5.1 Test and analysis records shall be kept by the Health, Wellness and Labor Welfare Unit (RHSS).

6.5.2 Units shall keep a record of the training provided to their employees.

6.5.3 RHSH shall keep monitoring level records.

6.5.4 These records shall be kept available to employees, according to ACP regulations.



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7.0 RESPONSIBILITIES

The responsibilities for ensuring compliance with this Standard are described in the Occupational Health and Safety Management Standard 2600SEG101.

8.0 INQUIRIES

Any information or clarification of the content or application of this standard may be requested in writing to RSHS.

9.0 EXCEPTIONS

Any deviations or temporary exceptions to compliance with this standard may be requested in writing to RSHS.

10.0 TERM

This standard shall remain in force until revised or amended.

11.0 REFERENCES

- 11.1 Record Retention Tables, Records Management Section, ACP.
- 11.2 RESPIRATORY PROTECTION STANDARD 2600SEG205
- 11.3 HAZARDOUS MATERIAL INFORMATION STANDARD 2600SEG201