



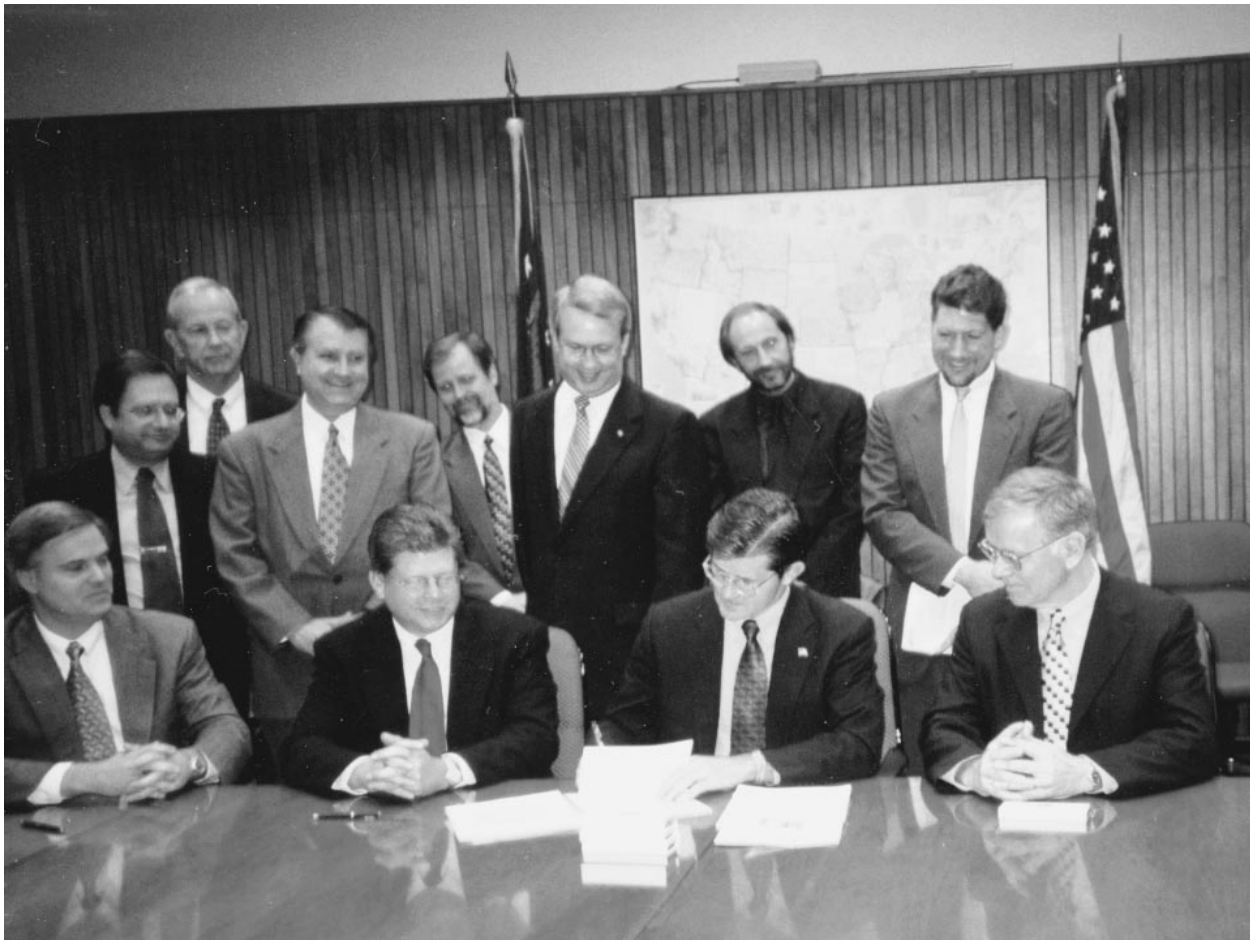
Workplace Quality News



Number 16, April, 2002

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Signs Letter Of Support For The Refractory Ceramic Fibers Coalition's Product Stewardship Program

By Dean E. Venturin, Director, Health, Safety and Environmental Quality



Shown seated from left to right: Gary Novak, Vesuvius USA Corporation, President of the Foundry Division; Dell Hadden, Thermal Ceramics, Vice President of Operations; John Henshaw, Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health; William Kelly, Unifrax Corporation, President and CEO.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Signs Letter Of Support For The Refractory Ceramic Fibers Coalition's Product Stewardship Program

By Dean E. Venturin, Director, Health, Safety and Environmental Quality

On February 11, 2002, the Unifrax Corporation, along with other Refractory Ceramic Fibers Coalition (RCFC) member companies, entered into a voluntary product stewardship agreement with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). This program, entitled "PSP 2002," is a highly acclaimed, multi-faceted strategic risk management initiative designed specifically to reduce workplace exposures to refractory ceramic fiber (RCF).

PSP 2002 has been developed for use wherever RCF is manufactured, fabricated, installed, or removed as well as in other occupational settings where workers have potential exposure to airborne RCF. RCFC will report their progress on the implementation of PSP 2002 to OSHA annually.

Although there are no reporting provisions for non-RCFC member companies, all RCF users will be encouraged to adopt the key elements of PSP 2002. OSHA made a special point to commend RCFC for their attention to the safety and health of workers who use RCF in other industries.

In a letter to RCFC, the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health, John Henshaw, commented that "OSHA believes that the commitments RCFC has made in developing the Program form an important step towards further improving worker protection. The 0.5 f/cc exposure guideline recommended in the Program, the specific engineering controls and work practices detailed in the Program, and the recognition that respira-

tory protection is appropriate in certain operations, will help reduce exposures of the workers who handle RCF products daily." The Assistant Secretary of Labor went on to say, "OSHA does not, at this time, consider RCF a regulatory priority," and "we will not list it on our regulatory agenda for action."

Unifrax has long believed that product stewardship for RCF is the most responsible risk management strategy that the industry could initiate. With this agreement, OSHA formally supports these worker protection efforts and helps to usher in a new era of cooperative agreements between industry and the regulatory community.

No Change in IARC Carcinogen Classification for RCF

By Greg W. Drumm, Senior Environmental Analyst

As many of our valued customers are aware, health professionals, governments, researchers, and the public throughout the world, frequently rely upon the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) carcinogen classifications to assist with understanding a substance's carcinogenic potential. For instance, IARC carcinogen classifications are frequently found on many material safety data sheets (MSDS's) for many products including our Fiberfrax® MSDS's.

In October 2001, IARC conducted a re-evaluation of the carcinogenic risk of several airborne man-made vitreous fibers including RCF. IARC concluded from this re-evaluation that RCF remain classified as a Group 2B, possible human carcinogen. The previous IARC evaluation, where IARC originally classified RCF as a Group 2B carcinogen, was conducted in 1988.

For reference and comparison purposes, IARC's classification scheme for carcinogenic risk is shown below:

- Group 1: The agent is carcinogenic to humans.
- Group 2A: The agent is probably carcinogenic to humans.
- Group 2B: The agent is possibly carcinogenic to humans.
- Group 3: The agent is not classifiable as to its carcinogenicity to humans.
- Group 4: The agent is probably not carcinogenic to humans.

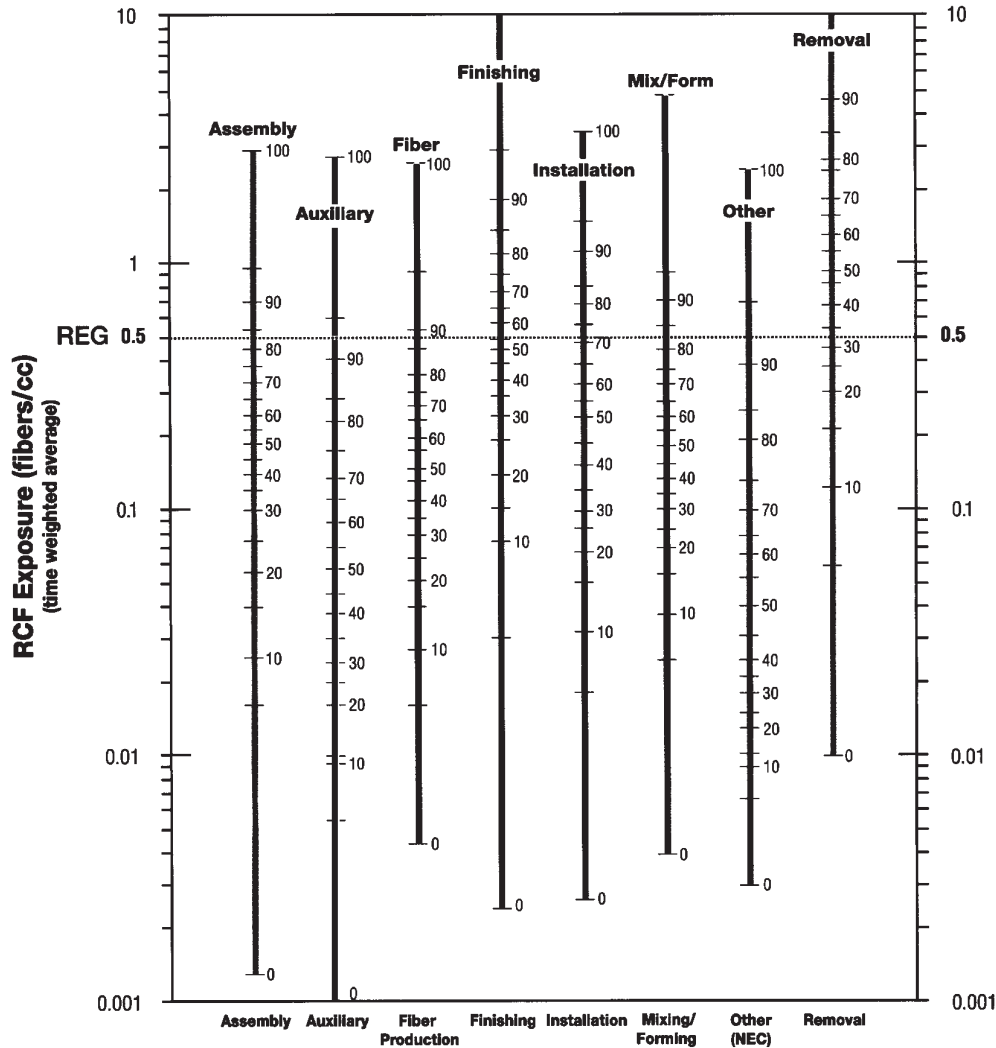
In the press release announcing this decision, IARC stated the following:

"Epidemiologic studies published during the 15 years since the previous IARC Monographs review of these fibers in 1988 provide no evidence of increased risks of lung cancer or of mesothelioma (cancer of the lining of the body cavities) from occupational exposures during manufacture of these materials and inadequate evidence overall of any cancer risk."

Although this decision may be viewed as relatively good news, we must remain diligent to control and reduce potential exposures to RCF in all aspects of our jobs. This decision also underscores the importance of our continued participation in the University of Cincinnati epidemiology study as well as the importance of the routine fiber monitoring of our workers and customers. With this in mind, we would like to thank all our customers for their patience and understanding in supporting our efforts to reduce and control potential fiber exposures in the workplace. We should also acknowledge the time and hard work that Russ Person, Dr. Paul Boymel, and many others put into this project.

If you should have any questions about IARC, please feel free to contact Greg Drumm or Pat Snodgrass in HSEQ. The full press release from IARC may be referenced at www.RCFC.net or www.IARC.fr.

**Refractory Ceramic Fiber (RCF) Exposures
72 Month Monitoring Results**



Note: This chart shows the percentage of data points below a specific RCF exposure for a variety of job functions (e.g., 84% of the exposures measured for Assembly job functions were below the industry REG of 0.5 fibers/cc.)

Presented as a service of the Refractory Ceramic Fibers Coalition (Washington, DC)

28-1001

Fiber Ranges Chart

By Greg W. Drumm, Senior Environmental Analyst

The diagram shown above presents a graphical representation of RCF exposure monitoring data separated into eight distinct work tasks. The range of RCF exposure data for each of the eight work tasks is represented by a colored vertical line based on a percentage scale from 0 to 100%.

As an example, the corresponding vertical line for the "Mix/Form" job tasks show the measured exposures range from approximately 0.003 f/cc to 5.0 f/cc. In addition, the graph shows that approximately 83% of the measured exposures in this "Mix/Form" job task category are below the RCFC guideline of 0.5 f/cc while the midpoint of the "Mix/Form" job category range, at 50%, is

approximately 0.2 f/cc.

This diagram is based on 72 months worth of RCF monitoring data collected by the Refractory Ceramic Fibers Coalition (RCFC) member companies within their facilities as well as at various customers' facilities.

This diagram is a supplemental tool to be used for comparative purposes only and should never be used as a sole mean of evaluating potential exposures. Questions regarding this diagram may be directed to the Unifrax PSP Hotline at 1-800-322-2293.

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Workplace Quality News Information Guide

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(Order Code: CHQ-wqn-16)

- OSHA Signs Letter of Support for RCFC's PSP
- No Change in IARC Carcinogen Classification
- Fiber Ranges Chart

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- FoamFrax™ Insulation
- New Magnesium Silicate Fiber "Isofrax™"
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- Fire Protection Applications
- Fiber Waste Management

NUMBER 13

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- PSP 2000 - The Strategic Plan
- AIHCE Conference Activities
- Vacuum Former Establishes In-House Monitoring Program

NUMBER 12

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- NIOSH and RCFC Team Up To Promote Airborne Fiber Reduction Strategies
- Overview Of Airborne Fiber Monitoring
- Findings From European RCF Health Study

Anyone interested in Issues 1-11, call the PSP Hotline at 1-800-322-2293



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