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FLANGE SEPARATION GUIDELINES

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Purpose

The purpose of this guideline is to serve as a guide in the protection of all Emory employees from exposure to hazardous dust during the separation of flanges.

1.2 Scope

This program applies to all Emory University employees and students.

1.3 Definitions

EHSO. Environmental, Health and Safety Office.

Workplace Monitoring Program. EHSO's industrial hygiene monitoring program.

1.4 Responsibilities

Environmental Health and Safety Office (EHSO)

EHSO is responsible for the following:

- Development, implementation and administration of the Flange Separation Guideline
- Development and implementation of the workplace monitoring program
- Reviewing, updating and evaluating the overall effectiveness of the Flange Separation Guideline

Directors, Supervisors and Managers

Emory directors, supervisors and managers have primary responsibility for:

- Management of the Flange Separation Program in their area(s)
- Enforcement of the Flange Separation Program in their area(s)
- Ensuring that all affected personnel are trained
- Informing EHSO when operations may lead to a possible asbestos exposure.

Employees

Emory employees are responsible for:

- Complying with the rules set forth by this program.
- Completing required training.

2.0 Process

- Respiratory protection will be provided for use if an employee wishes to wear one.
- Personnel should wear goggles (with side shields) and gloves prior to starting any procedures.
- Put down impermeable drop cloth (6 mil polypropylene sheeting is recommended)
 - Must be large enough to catch any debris/fibers that may be released during separation.
- Mix amended water by adding a surfactant to water by the manufacturer's recommendations.
 - Example: Foster 32-90 Asbestos Removal Surfactant
 - One drop of dishwashing liquid

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- Recommend that it is mixed in a one gallon pump sprayer for ease of application.
- Before separating the flange, thoroughly wet the material to be removed.
- Allow time for the material to absorb the amended water and become saturated (to the extent possible).
- Once saturated, begin loosening the bolts while spraying the gasket material with amended water.
- Continue spraying amended water to prevent any potential fiber or dust release while the flanges are separated with hand tools. **Do Not Use Pneumatic Tools.**
- Once the flange is separated enough to identify if the gasket may contain asbestos or if it is a flexitallic gasket, stop separating the flange.
 - If the gasket is known not to contain asbestos then the flange can be separated by the employee.
 - If the gasket is suspect for asbestos, contact EHSO so that a sample can be taken of the gasket material.

3.0 List of Associated Documents

- SAF-360 Asbestos Operation and Maintenance Program
- Asbestos Training Program