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PIPE AND TANK INSULATION RECOMMENDED WORK PRACTICES

WEAR LOOSE CLOTHING: Wearing long-sleeved shirts and blouses, loose at the neck and wrists, along with long pants and caps will protect skin areas from coming in contact with mineral wool fiber. Loose clothing prevents fiber from rubbing into the skin. Depending on job conditions, gloves may be necessary.

PREVENT AIRBORNE DUST: Dust collection systems should be used whenever mineral wool fiber exposures may exceed either established dust standards or recommended fiber standards. Operations such as sawing, machining and/or blowing mineral wool fiber have the greater potential for high exposure.

PROTECT EYES: Safety glasses, goggles or face shields should be worn whenever mineral wool fiber materials are being applied overhead or in areas where loose particles or fibers may get into the eyes.

DON'T RUB OR SCRATCH SKIN: If mineral wool particles and fibers accumulate on exposed skin area, do not rub or scratch. Remove the material by washing the skin thoroughly but gently with warm water and mild soap. Using a good commercial skin cream or lotion after washing may be helpful.

WEAR RESPIRATORS: If there is a possibility that airborne mineral wool fiber concentrations may exceed recommended working levels or if respiratory discomfort is experienced, respirators should be worn. Acceptable respirators are those specifically approved by NIOSH for protection against dusts. Examples are 3M 8210, 9910 etc. An appropriate fit-testing program must be incorporated in the respiratory program.

WASH WORK CLOTHES SEPARATELY: Work clothing worn in areas where exposure to mineral wool is possible should be washed separately from other household laundry to prevent fiber from being transferred to other clothing. Rinse the washing machine thoroughly before it is used again. If there is a lot of fiber on clothing, it is best to presoak and rinse the garments first prior to washing.

KEEP WORK AREAS CLEAN: Avoid unnecessary handling of scrap materials by keeping waste disposal equipment as close to working areas as possible. Do not let scrap material and debris pile up on floors or other surfaces. Follow an organized housekeeping plan at all times.