

NTPC Health & Safety Alert

Asbestos Gasket Material



Background

In a recent inspection of a power plant, a roll of rigid gasket material was found that was suspected to contain asbestos. The gasket material was researched and found to be Garlock 7021 Compressed Asbestos Sheets. The gasket material is manufactured in Indonesia and has likely been in the plant for many years.

Practical Guidance

Compressed Asbestos Sheet gasket material is still available for sale in some jurisdictions. The material is not hazardous to handle as the asbestos fibers are contained in an elastomer matrix and are not “friable” (dust-creating).

It becomes a hazard when it has been installed and needs to be removed using grinding/machining of the gasket. This type of operation will require workers to be trained and use appropriate PPE to protect from hazardous dust.

If you have old gasket material in your workplace and suspect it may contain asbestos, contact your regional Health and Safety Coordinator.

With the permission of the applicable municipality this type of gasket material may be disposed of at most local landfills.

For more info contact the Health and Safety Department.

