

**Secretary of Defense
Environmental Award**

**Pollution Prevention
Team**

**Asbestos Elimination Program
Defense Logistics Agency
Defense Supply Center Philadelphia**



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Summary

The Defense Supply Center Philadelphia (DSCP) deals with a large quantity of items containing asbestos. Because asbestos has been identified as carcinogenic, questions were raised about the advisability of processing such material and providing it to our military customers. DSCP accepted the challenge to eliminate as many asbestos items as possible from the federal supply catalog and provide safe alternatives that would meet mission specifications. DSCP identified over 14,000 asbestos-containing items, mostly in Federal Supply Class 5330, Packings and Gaskets. As a result of the DSCP Asbestos Task Team's proactive efforts, 50 percent of the asbestos-containing items have been replaced with non-asbestos substitutes.

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Introduction

The Defense Supply Center Philadelphia (DSCP) annually supplies and manages over \$7.66 billion worth of food, clothing and textiles, pharmaceuticals, medical supplies, and general and industrial items in support of America's warfighters worldwide.

A large quantity of the general and industrial items contain asbestos, an identified carcinogen. Consequently, issues were raised about the advisability of processing and providing such potentially hazardous material to the warfighter. DSCP accepted the challenge to provide its customers with items that are safe and at the same time meet mission requirements.

DSCP organized a team with the following members to evaluate the program and design an effective remedy:

- Joann T. Glasgow, Commodity Logistics Specialist, DSCP
- Lloyd J. Stefanic, Quality Assurance Specialist, DSCP
- Christian Armellini, Mechanical Engineer, DSCP

Program Summary

The first task was to identify which DSCP-managed items contained asbestos. Approximately 7,900 asbestos items were identified in 1998, and by 2002 over 14,000 items had been identified. The vast majority of these items are in Federal Supply Class 5330, Packing and Gaskets. One of DSCP's customers, the Navy, has made a conscientious effort to eliminate asbestos from shipboard use. To assist the Navy, representatives from DSCP, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA), and Bolt, Beranek, and Newman Systems and Technologies, formed a partnership to explore the funding and testing of non-asbestos products. A meeting with John Crane, Inc., a manufacturer of packings and gaskets, many of which contain asbestos, was held to identify non-asbestos substitutes which met NAVSEA specifications and standards. This effort developed into the NAVSEA Asbestos Elimination Program, which is still ongoing.

DSCP's second initiative was to establish the Asbestos Task Team, which was responsible for resolving the asbestos issues associated with items in Federal Supply Class 5330. The team members were selected from all areas of the supply chain. DSCP worked closely with the Navy. As a result of this effort, 7,000 asbestos-containing items were replaced with non-asbestos items.

Efforts are coordinated with the Navy to identify and test alternative items that do not contain asbestos and obtain Navy approval for use of such alternatives. DSCP and the Navy have spent

thousands of hours verifying asbestos versus non-asbestos products by testing such items and querying manufacturers. If acquisitions are suspected of containing asbestos, the item suppliers are required to advise DSCP as to whether asbestos was used in manufacture of the product. If asbestos was used, then the manufacture is required to submit a Material Safety Data Sheets and attach a Hazardous Warning Label to the product. Some applications still do require asbestos.

DSCP's third effort is to help our customers identify asbestos-containing products and determine if a non-asbestos replacement part is available. DSCP has developed an asbestos database that uses National Stock Numbers (NSN) to identify items. This data base also identifies NSNs that have been cancelled without replacement. DSCP was contracted by the Navy to make this data base available via the Navy Bulletin Board System. Originally, DSCP uploaded the database to the bulletin board biweekly, and as the data base became well-known, other Military Services and Federal agencies requested access. The database is now available on the World Wide Web. Any Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) customer can assess the website at http://206.38.38.10/misc/qbe.asp?dsn=asbestos&table=asbest_e

Several European countries have requested our assistance in identifying asbestos items and replacement items. To accomplish this, procedures were established for the DLA's Defense Logistics Information Service to work with the North American Treaty Organization countries to review replacement items. In an effort to improve their own supply systems, several countries have implemented DSCP procedures to identify and procure asbestos free items.

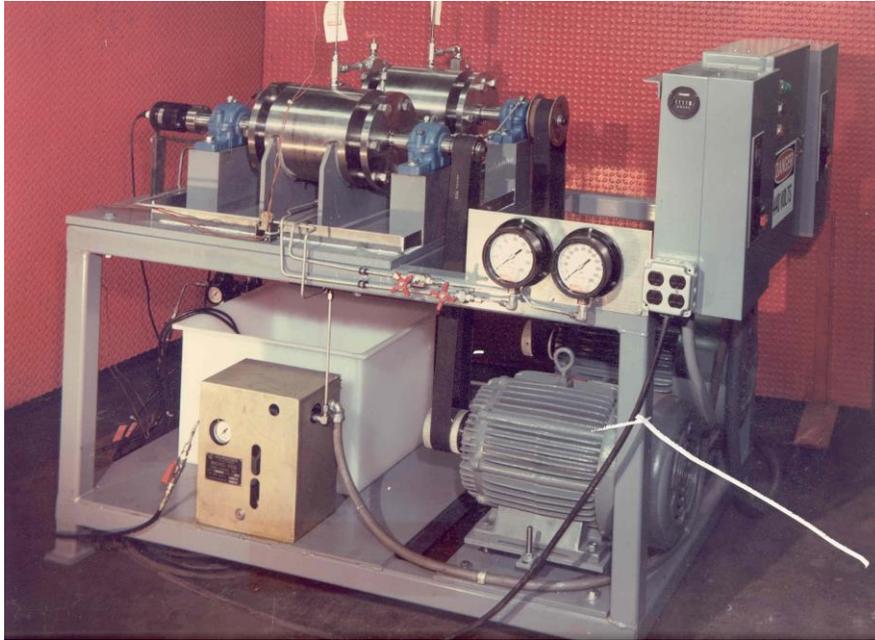
Accomplishments

DSCP has identified most of the asbestos-containing items they manage, and non-asbestos replacements have been verified through testing and manufacturer documentation. DSCP is also working closely with a NAVSEA contractor to find non-asbestos substitutes for asbestos items.

DSCP has been most proactive in dealing with the problem of asbestos-containing material. Item managers and equipment specialists understand the procedures for handling items flagged as asbestos-containing materials, and the specialists work towards getting these items out of the DLA/DSCP procurement system. DSCP and the depots work together as a team committed to providing customers with an environmentally safe product of choice.

Department of Defense customers worldwide are aware of the DSCP Asbestos Database website and its importance in making a product choice. The DSCP technical specialists, item managers, and contract specialists are all trained and aware of the importance of providing non-asbestos replacements for our customers.

Some asbestos-containing items do not have asbestos-free replacements. Such items are still maintained, stocked, and carefully monitored. To ensure worker safety and prevent exposure, these items are stored at minimum levels. DSCP's relationship with depots that store the asbestos items is one that enhances interaction and provides assistance.



Pump packing test stand used to test asbestos and non-asbestos packing materials.



Asbestos packing materials used in ship pumps and valves.