



2600SEG245 COAL TAR PITCH WORK STANDARD

1.0. PURPOSE

The purpose of this standard is to establish uniform protection guidelines for employees performing work with coal tar pitch in order to prevent burns (during hot application), skin or respiratory irritation, and diseases that may evolve from exposure to volatiles generated during heating, or when applied as coating to gates, roofing, and roads.

2.0. BACKGROUND

No background.

3.0. SCOPE

This standard shall apply to all Panama Canal Authority (ACP) employees, contractors, and third parties in facilities, industrial shops, and areas under ACP responsibility who perform work with coal tar pitch, or tasks that place them in contact with contaminants generated by heating.

4.0. LEGAL FOUNDATION

This standard is established pursuant to Agreement No. 12 of the Board of Directors of the Panama Canal Authority (ACP), Safety and Occupational Health Regulations, Chapter I, Articles 8 and 16.

5.0. DEFINITIONS

At the time this standard was issued, all terms were known by users.

6.0. GENERAL

6.1 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

6.1.1. A system for the treatment of volatiles generated by coal tar pitch heating whenever the amount to be applied is of the industrial type (exceeding 50 kgs or 100 pounds) over a period of eight hours, per coordination with the Area Industrial Hygienist.

6.1.2. Signs shall be posted at a distance of not less than 100 meters from the work site, warning that coal tar pitch work is being performed.

6.1.3. Whenever coal tar pitch coating is applied to roofing on occupied buildings, application work shall be performed, to the extent possible, during non-working hours and weekends to avoid the exposure of third parties, and prevent volatiles from entering the buildings and affecting occupants.

6.2. WORK PROCEDURES

6.2.1 All personnel involved in the application of coal tar pitch shall keep updated fit tests.

6.2.2 A person shall be responsible for coordinating and monitoring worker compliance with personal protection procedures and adequate PPE.

6.2.3 Half face and full face respirators with organic vapor cartridges shall be used when the application is done in open areas (roofs, streets, etc.). The Supervisor of the Safety and Industrial Hygiene Unit (RSHS), shall be consulted when application is to be done in confined spaces.



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6.2.4 Employees must change their street clothes to cotton hoods and coveralls prior to going to the work site, taping around their wrists and neck to achieve a more effective closure. Street clothes may not be worn under the protective coveralls. Also, leather boots and gloves shall be worn in addition to the above.

6.2.5 Blocking creams shall be used to assist in preventing skin irritations.

6.2.6 Workers shall shower or wash with soap and water after completing their work.

6.3. EXPOSURE MONITORING

RHSH employees shall conduct periodic readings of environmental concentrations of coal tar pitch volatiles, and monitor personal exposure. The Supervisor of RHSH shall inform employees in writing whenever their coal tar pitch exposure exceeds the permissible limits

6.4 MEDICAL EVALUATION

Employees being exposed to coal tar pitch volatiles shall be provided medical evaluations during their entire term as ACP employees in order to detect any possible health problems, as directed by the Health, Wellness and Labor Welfare Unit (RHSS)

6.5 TRAINING

Employees assigned to coal tar pitch work shall be instructed regarding the hazards of this material, respiratory protection, personal hygiene, and the need to undergo medical evaluation. This training shall be conducted by industrial hygienists and other competent health staff. Supervisors may request this training by contacting the Supervisor of RHSH

6.6 RECORDKEEPING AND ACCESS TO DATA

6.6.1 Test and analysis records shall be kept by the Health, Wellness and Labor Welfare Unit (RHSS).

6.6.2 Units shall keep a record of the training provided to their employees.

6.6.3 RHSH shall keep monitoring level records.

6.6.4 These records shall be kept available to employees, according to ACP regulations.

7.0 RESPONSIBILITIES

Supervisors shall enforce compliance with this standard, and when the work is performed by contractors, the Contracting Officer Representative shall enforce such compliance.

8.0 INQUIRIES

Any information or clarification of the content or application of this standard may be requested in writing to RHSH.

9.0 EXCEPTIONS

Any deviations or temporary exceptions to compliance with this standard may be requested in writing to RHSH.



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10.0 TERM

This standard shall remain in force until revised or amended.

11.0 REFERENCES

- 11.1 Record Retention Tables, Records Management Section, ACP.
- 11.2 RESPIRATORY PROTECTION STANDARD 2600SEG205
- 11.3 HAZARDOUS MATERIAL INFORMATION STANDARD 2600SEG201
- 11.4 QUALITY OF ENVIRONMENT IN OFFICES STANDARD 2600SEG208