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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES ■ Public Health Service  
Centers for Disease Control ■ National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health

# NIOSH



## Health Hazard Evaluation Report

HETA 82-131-1098  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

## PREFACE

The Hazard Evaluations and Technical Assistance Branch of NIOSH conducts field investigations of possible health hazards in the workplace. These investigations are conducted under the authority of Section 20(a)(6) of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, 29 U.S.C. 669(a)(6) which authorizes the Secretary of Health and Human Services, following a written request from any employer or authorized representative of employees, to determine whether any substance normally found in the place of employment has potentially toxic effects in such concentrations as used or found.

The Hazard Evaluations and Technical Assistance Branch also provides, upon request, medical, nursing, and industrial hygiene technical and consultative assistance (TA) to Federal, state, and local agencies; labor; industry and other groups or individuals to control occupational health hazards and to prevent related trauma and disease.

Mention of company names or products does not constitute endorsement by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health.

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## I. SUMMARY

On February 4, 1982, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) received a request for a Health Hazard Evaluation from the Antitrust Division, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, D.C., to determine if harmful levels of asbestos were present in several rooms of leased offices in the Safeway building on 12th Street N.W.

A site visit and environmental survey were performed on February 16, 1982. Four area air samples were taken during the survey, one each in offices 474, 604, 622-B, and 1021. The samples were collected on 0.8u MCE glass fiber filters using a flow rate of 2 liters per minute (lpm). Sampling duration averaged 330 minutes for a total sample volume of 0.7 M<sup>3</sup>. In addition, two bulk samples, ceiling material and settled dust, were collected and submitted for asbestos analysis.

The percentage of asbestos present in the bulk samples was determined microscopically by a visual estimation of the fibers present with an aspect ratio of 3:1 or greater. The limit of detection has been determined to be 0.03 fibers per field or 4500 fibers per filter.

Ceiling material was found to contain 5% chrysotile asbestos. No asbestos was found in the settled dust or any of the area air samples.

On the basis of the study conducted February 16, 1982, NIOSH concludes that hazards from asbestos exposure did not exist for personnel working in those offices sampled in the Safeway building.

KEYWORDS: SIC 9100 (Federal Government), asbestos, office building.

II. AUTHORSHIP AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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III. DISTRIBUTION AND AVAILABILITY OF REPORT

Copies of this report are currently available upon request from NIOSH, Division of Standards Development and Technology Transfer, 4676 Columbia Parkway, Cincinnati, Ohio 45226. After 90 days, the report will be available through the National Technical Information Service (NTIS), 5285 Port Royal, Springfield, Virginia 22161. Information regarding its availability through NTIS can be obtained from NIOSH Publications Office at the Cincinnati address. Copies of this report have been sent to:

1. U.S. Department of Labor, Antitrust Division
2. NIOSH, Region III
3. OSHA, Region III

For the purpose of informing affected employees, copies of this report shall be posted by the employer in a prominent place accessible to the employees for a period of 30 calendar days.