

limit value of 5 mppcf should have prompted the conclusion that the risk of asbestosis was great after only 20 years of exposure. Indeed, other observations have suggested that asbestosis becomes evident after approximately this degree of total dust exposure: Wells<sup>35</sup> began to see the disease after 50 to 60 mppcf-years, and Fulton<sup>36</sup> reported a 17 per cent prevalence after exposure from 27 to 75 mppcf-years.

In our study, asbestosis became evident after a total exposure of 60 mppcf-years, and the earliest case was found after 13 years of employment. Fleischer's prevalence in the same shipyard was much lower because, in 1945, less than 10 per cent of the workers had been exposed for more than 10 years. These observations indicate that prolonged exposure to low concentrations of asbestos is hazardous, and support the lowering of the threshold-limit values.

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