



International Union of Elevator Constructors

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Affiliated with the AFL-CIO

November 1, 2024

Brothers and Sisters,

We recently received test results of rouge samples from an elevator system utilizing *noncircular elastomeric-coated steel suspension members* (CSB). The existing CSB's had been in use for a number of years and showed visible signs of wear. A sample of the rouge dust was collected and analyzed by a professional testing laboratory.

The analysis of the sample data was able to confirm that none of the objects and structures found were asbestos. What is to note is that the two most prominent elements recorded were Iron (Fe) and Silicon (Si). OSHA Permissible Exposure Limit (PEL) for silica dust is 50mg/m³ over an 8-hour Time Weighted Average (TWA) and for iron dust, 10mg/m³ over an 8-hour TWA.

The IUEC will continue to investigate exposure levels to silica and iron which may be present in elevator machine rooms and hoistways due to deterioration of suspension members. This includes both CSB's and traditional wire ropes. **Until a determination can be made of the exposure levels our members may be subjected to, all members should wear an N95 mask to better reduce the impact and risk while working in conditions where excessive rouge is present.** The IUEC will back you in any situation in which you refuse a directive that will endanger your health and safety.

Always keep in mind, Article XXVIII, Paragraph 4 of our collective bargaining agreements recognizes that if you are confronted with a choice between not performing assigned tasks or subjecting yourself to serious injury or death arising from a hazardous condition at the workplace, and you have no reasonable alternative, you may refuse in good faith to expose yourself to the dangerous condition without being subjected to subsequent discrimination. In such circumstances, you must first seek from your employer a correction of the dangerous condition.

If you have questions regarding this matter, please contact Director of Safety Eric McClaskey or Assistant Director of Safety David Griefenhagen.

Fraternally,

Frank J. Christensen
General President