

ASBESTOS ON ARROW III RAIL CARS

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Supplementary Information

This Safety Advisory will follow up on the previous Safety Advisory with more detailed information.

As noted previously, NJ TRANSIT has had an approved asbestos removal contractor remove non-friable (not easily crushed or pulverized) asbestos from Arrow III rail cars since April of this year. Fifty-two cars have already had asbestos removed at specific locations and the remaining 107 cars are scheduled to be completed by the end of the year.

The Office of System Safety requested that the remediation contractor conduct personal air monitoring of their employees doing the removal. The monitoring was performed while the asbestos was intentionally being removed. The results for “total particulate” (all particles in the air) ranged from 0.006 to 0.033 fibers per cubic centimeter (f/cc) of air. It is important to note that these particles may or may not contain asbestos. Even if they do, the fiber counts are well within OSHA’s safe range for asbestos particles in air. OSHA considers below 0.100 f/cc asbestos particles in air to be safe for an eight-hour period.

There also is non-friable asbestos in the shell of the rail cars. However, this non-friable asbestos is located behind panels and is not accessible unless the panels are removed. (Signs identifying the aforementioned panels will be installed shortly.) If any activities (e.g., drilling or cutting) might possibly break off material that may contain asbestos, contact the Office of System Safety which will analyze the area of potential disturbance before work proceeds.

For more on this topic, please refer to the NJ TRANSIT Asbestos Management Plan dated August 13, 2015. If you do not have one, please contact one of the contacts listed on page 2.

A D V I S O R Y

QUESTIONS

If you have questions regarding the information in this Advisory or desire a copy of the Asbestos Management Plan, please contact one of the following Office of System Safety personnel.

OSS Contacts

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Office of System Safety
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Safety Advisory 2017-08
August 18, 2017