

**GUIDELINES**  
**FOR THE USE OF ENCAPSULANTS**  
**ON ASBESTOS-CONTAINING MATERIALS**

**Office of Toxic Substances,  
United States Environmental Protection Agency**

**June, 1981**

A TEST  
WHICH INDICATES WHETHER FRIABLE ASBESTOS-CONTAINING MATERIAL  
CAN SUSTAIN THE WEIGHT OF AN ENCAPSULANT

Introduction

This test, which has been adapted from the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) Standard Test Method E 736-80, has been used extensively in some parts of the country.

Purpose

This test indicates whether friable asbestos-containing materials have sufficient adhesive and cohesive strength to sustain the weight of an encapsulant.

Materials

1. A cap,  $3\frac{1}{4}$ " in diameter and approximately  $\frac{1}{2}$ " deep. A hook shall be attached at the center.
2. An adhesive system of urethane resin to form a rigid foam.
3. A two pound weight.

Method

1. Select at random three locations on the asbestos-containing material on which to perform the test. Then, at each location, perform the following steps:
2. Mix a sufficient quantity of the urethane resin system in the cap, and place the cap immediately placed against the friable asbestos-containing material being tested.
3. Hold the cap in place until the resin has completely foamed and has set sufficiently to become self supporting.
4. After the foam becomes hard, engage the weight carefully on the hook. This applies a uniform force of 36 pounds per square foot perpendicular to the surface.
5. The material must support the weight for one (1) minute at each test location in order to pass the test.

Note: The adhered cap can be removed by carefully cutting the foam away from the asbestos-containing material with a sharp knife or hacksaw blade, or it can be left in place for future tests.

### Interpretation of Results

If friable asbestos-containing material does not pass this test, encapsulation is probably not an appropriate method for controlling fiber release.