

Cassiar Asbestos Fibres

PROPERTY FILE

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Location

The Cassiar Mine is situated on top of McDame Mountain, about 900 metres above the town of Cassiar in the north western corner of British Columbia, Canada.

History

The Cassiar Mine is western Canada's only asbestos producing mine and since 1952 it has been a major contributor to British Columbia's economy.

The asbestos outcrop at Cassiar was discovered on the western slope of McDame Mountain in 1950. Subsequent exploratory work proved that the ore zone is large, striking in a northwesterly direction and dipping approximately forty degrees to the east, extending below the main peak of McDame Mountain which, before the stripping programme began, had an elevation of almost 2,135 metres.

The open pit method of mining is used. The mine is accessible from the town of Cassiar by a 9.6km road which climbs up the western slope of McDame Mountain. Fibre is transferred to the mill by an aerial tramline 4.7km long.

The milled fibre is bagged and loaded into containers for its journey to Vancouver by truck and barge.

McDame Mountain is the site of the Cassiar mine in British Columbia, Canada



Technical characteristics

(i)

Textile fibres:

Cassiar is an important producer of high quality textile fibres, well known for their purity and low dust content. The fibres have excellent tensile strength and flexibility, and separate easily into individual fibrils. Cassiar textile fibres also have a low magnetite content.

(ii)

Asbestos cement, friction materials and other non-textile grades:

- High tensile strength
- Flexibility
- Rich in middle length fractions – important in asbestos cement manufacture
- Low dust content
- "Dry" (non-talcose)
- Low magnetite content
- Low iron and calcium content – important in the filter industry
- Low content of other accessory minerals of all kinds

(05)

104 P005 Cassiar Asbestos mine

- Normally supplied in a crudy condition. The fibres open readily with minimum degradation
- More open grades are available for specific applications
- Very good fast drainage properties – important for high speed running of asbestos cement machinery

Packaging

Cassiar fibre is pressure packed into strong woven and coated polythene bags weighing 50kg.

Warning label

All bags carry a special warning label to alert users to the need for precautions.

Shipment

Shipment is made in units of 1 metric ton(20 x 50kg bags), shrink wrapped and palletised.

The units can be shipped either breakbulk or in containers.

For breakbulk shipments the pallets used are standard export four-way entry type. For container shipments either standard export or toboggan pallets are used, the latter chiefly with “modules” i.e. two units on one pallet.

Slip sheets are also available either for placing beneath both units or, more frequently, under the top unit of a palletised module.

Weight per container is 18 metric tons.

The shipping port for Cassiar fibre is Vancouver although shipment can also be made from Montreal in those rare cases where no service is available from Vancouver.

Available grades and applications

textile grades

yarns and textiles	AAA AAA-50	AA AA-50	A A-65	AC AC-60
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non-textile grades

	AK	AK-60	AK-100	AS	AS-60	AS-100	AX	AX-60	AX-100	AY AY-120	AZ
jointings											
filter applications											
sheets and moulded goods											
high pressure pipes											
low pressure pipes											
paper, boards etc.											
moulding compounds											
friction materials											