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DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Crane Packing Co. Memo RE Wall Street Journal Article
on New Rules RE Exposure to Lead, Toluene & Asbestos

CRANE PACKING COMPANY

TO: I. F. *see me*
Art Z

TO: ART ZOBEIS

DATE: OCTOBER 6, 1975

FROM: VANCE E. VORHEES

SUBJECT:

Attached is an article which we have clipped out of the Wall Street Journal covering the new rules on worker exposure to lead, toluene and asbestos as offered by the Department of Labor. You will note that they have recommended a new standard of only .5 fibers per cubic centimeter of air as an average figure for an eight hour period.

A few months ago they set up a limit of 5 fibers per cubic centimeter of air. The present plan was changed later and will allow only 2 fibers per cubic centimeter of air as an average over eight hours starting January, 1976.

✓ You can see that pressure is coming along to make our problem even more difficult. We are asking Kemper Insurance Company to come in and check the readings once again.

Last time we were well within the limitations of the present regulations but when we talk about .5 fibers per cubic centimeter we are really into an area which may be impossible to obtain.

It generally takes three or four months before Kemper can get around to making the checks that we want them to do. Therefore, if we are going to make modifications and attempt to improve the situation in various locations, it would appear we can't wait three or four months for someone to come around and tell us what to accomplish. We have to be able to take these readings on the spot.

Therefore, will you check to see what it will cost to obtain a MSA Model G gravimetric pump unit with a Millipore filter cassette. It is my understanding that the Kemper check was on the basis of 430 X magnification and used what they call phase contrast illumination in the process. MSA undoubtedly stands for Mine Safety Act. So there must be a standard set up for this equipment.

In order to reduce our asbestos count previously, we did away, as I understand it, with all dry braiding. By wetting the strands we have been able to reduce the amount of asbestos floating through the air considerably and, therefore, we are within the present standards as checked out by Kemper. However, even to meet the present standards we have to exhaust a considerable amount of air and we have been warned by the utilities that we may have to cut the amount of our gas this winter, which could be a serious problem if we have to throw out so much heat as is required by exhausts through a bag unit.

It is our understanding that we were well within the regulations in the white room of the Packing building where we braid the teflon and teflon coated packings. In that area we don't have exhausts over the machines. This is only natural because all asbestos yarns are dipped in teflon suspensoid.



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However, the use of teflon suspensoids may not be acceptable to some customers. Certainly, some of our products that we sell would not be competitive if teflon is used but it may be that that may be the only answer.

Nevertheless, Art, what I want you to do is to have someone on your staff investigate various wetting agents in which our yarns can be dipped to further reduce generation of particles during the braiding operation.

I would suggest that you contact Bill Koch and George McKillop to see what their thinking might be but definitely we should check into this matter because it is only a matter of time before the Government will be reducing the allowable limits of asbestos floating in the air.

With reference to the lead and toluene situation, we are going to ask Kemper also to check this out but we have a program whereby all our employees who work in the presence of lead are checked periodically in accordance with regulations and we have very adequately controlled that factor. We also feel that we are well within even the revised limit of toluene in the air. Actually, we use very little toluene as such but it could be that naphthalene, which is one of our solvents we use, may contain toluene. However, we will ask Kemper to check this.

The main thing I want you to check at the moment is what it will cost us to set ourselves up to check the asbestos fiber count in the air and also to check into the availability and use of wetting agents to reduce the amount of asbestos fibers floating in the air near our machines in the Packing building.

JEV

JEV:ph
Att.

CC: K.E. Swanson
J. Iverson

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