

AIR HYGIENE & MANUFACTURING COMMITTEE MEETING
September 13, 1962

Attending:

J. L. Mitchell, Chairman
A. C. Atkinson
D. T. Austin
J. E. Cerny
H. E. Palm
Jack Rainey
C. L. Sheckler
R. B. Smith
Hans Walter

H. K. Porter Company, Inc.
Johns-Manville Corporation
U. S. Rubber Company
Tallman-McCluskey Fabrics Co.
Raybestos-Manhattan, Inc.
American Asbestos Textile Corp.
Johns-Manville Corp.
Raybestos-Manhattan, Inc.
American Asbestos Textile Corp.

UNITED STATES PUBLIC HEALTH SURVEY

The "Objectives and General Plan for Occupational Health Study of the Asbestos Products Industry" by the Division of Occupational Health, Public Health Services of Department of Health, Education and Welfare dated August 21, 1962, was presented to the representatives of each member company. This states that the General Plan of Study will be:

A. Record Studies

Information on the past and present significance of the asbestos problem and its magnitude can be obtained through an analysis of mortality and morbidity data relating to asbestos-exposed workers. These studies will include workers who have left the industry during the last 25 years, those presently exposed, and those who will be leaving the industry, all on a continuing basis.

B. Laboratory Studies

Laboratory research is necessary to develop sampling and appraisal techniques which will permit a detailed definition of asbestos dust exposures. In addition, animal studies are needed to evaluate any relationship between asbestos fiber exposure and tumor formation.

C. In-plant Environmental Studies

The environmental studies will be designed to define the working environment of the various plants. Particular emphasis will be placed on levels and nature of exposures to asbestos dust. Exposures to other air contaminants--silica and mineral dusts, fumes, mists, vapors, and gases--which may be associated with asbestos or its processing also will be carefully assessed.

D. In-plant Medical Studies

The medical studies will be designed to develop specific information relative to the effects of asbestos dust and other associated exposures on health. They will include medical examinations of a substantial portion of the asbestos-workers in the asbestos-products industry and provide a sufficient background for periodic follow-up medical surveys.

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The medical findings will be related to the various aspects of the environmental exposures.

President W. S. Hough advised the committee that \$1,000,000.00 has already been appropriated for this study and that Dr. Crawley as head of this work is anxious to get along with this.

The committee recommended to the Board of Governors that Dr. Crawley be invited to address this committee for the major portion of the full session of this committee at our next meeting in December at Philadelphia.

It is also the recommendation of this committee to the Board that member companies be invited to send their company doctors to this session and that company hygienists also be in attendance.

We feel Dr. Crawley will welcome this opportunity and that member companies will want to be fully informed in more detail on the methods and procedures of the study.

(These recommendations were unanimously approved by the Board of Governors.)

DUST CONTROL IN SPINNING AND TWISTING DEPARTMENTS

Following discussion at our last meeting one member brought blueprints of the method for hooding spinning frames they propose to try. This was a three-stage plan, each step more detailed if the preceding step or steps do not adequately meet the dust control problem.

The method is admittedly expensive and will require a rather large air movement. It is quite similar to the hooding arrangements already in operation in some other member companies' plants.

Dust hood designs in carding were also discussed at length.

OPEN HOUSE OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH DIVISION AT CINCINNATI

The Institute and some member companies have received invitations to attend an Open House of the Occupational Health Division in Cincinnati late in October. It was felt some representative from our group should attend.

The Board of Governors voted to send Dr. Shaw as the representative of the Institute.

MEMBRANE FILTERS

Dr. Shaw advised the committee that Dr. Crawley and his Division are giving serious consideration to this type of filter. The committee received copies of a paper from the Asbestosis Research Council of England last month indicating their favorable consideration of this dust determination method.

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STATE BOARDS OF HEALTH

Inasmuch as the United States Public Health Service never bypasses the local State Boards of Health and will work with them in this study, we anticipate more interest from our State Boards of Health in our problems.

Two member companies report recent investigation of the dust controls of their plants at the request of the local unions.

COMPENSATION SETTLEMENT LUNG CANCER

One member reports a recent settlement of an industrial claim attributing lung cancer to asbestos dust exposure where the actual exposure was in fact very slight.

HUMIDITY CONTROLS

Controls and levels of relative humidity and the effect of humidity control on waste and production were discussed.

IN-PLANT FEEDING

Most member companies make use of vending machine type service and find it quite satisfactory.

PRE-EMPLOYMENT MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS

Most member companies report tightening of medical examinations. All companies use X-rays but some are installing their own X-ray machines.

Two companies are using the latest type machine for determining vision defects. One company using an audiometer advises they do not hire anyone with more than 10% impairment in hearing.

SUB-COMMITTEE - INSTITUTE APPROVED DUST COUNTING METHOD

This committee will finish its work prior to our next meeting and present a completed procedure for adoption at that time.

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The meeting of the Industrial Hygienist Group was held Sept. 13 and 14, 1962.
Those present were -

Tom Bodnorchuk Johns-Manville Corp.
Dewey Childers H. K. Porter Co., Inc.
John Hawkins Raybestos-Manhattan, Inc.

Mr. Sharrah did not attend this meeting, the Keasbey & Mattison representative, Mr. John McKinley, may attend the next meeting; however, since they are no longer in the asbestos textile business, his attendance would be to further his information.

The group present continued to write the specification to be used by the Asbestos Textile Industry in dust counting. With two exceptions the specification is complete. The most suitable liquid to use in the Impinger during sampling has not been completely clarified. The chairman has corresponded with the U. S. Public Health Department and has been advised that 75 isopropyl alcohol - 25 distilled water was the desired liquid. Evidence is available that 75-25 is not as suitable as 100% alcohol. A lower dust count is obtained with the mixture compared to all isopropyl alcohol. The primary disadvantage of alcohol is its fast evaporation rate, also cost. The committee is currently thinking that 100% isopropyl alcohol should be written into the specification as a safety factor.

The second unsettled question is what break down of the dust should be reported. The following has been recommended but will be further studied.

1. Total Dust Count (this includes all particles and fibers observed under the microscope).
 - (a) Particles under 10 microns (regardless of shape).
 - (b) Particles over 10 microns (except fibers).
 - (c) Fibers (must be at least 10 microns long, at least 4 times as long as the diameter).

Before writing the break down into the specification, Dr. Kenneth Smith will be contacted to determine if he thinks this classification will be best from a medical view.

When these matters are resolved, the specification should be ready for a final draft.

John W. Hawkins,
Chairman

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