

PLAINTIFF'S
EXHIBIT

FOS-209

THE INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION OF OHIO
DIVISION OF SAFETY AND HYGIENE

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Industrial Commission
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JOHN P. SHEDMAN
Member

JOHN J. GELIGAN
Governor

Division of
Safety and Hygiene
THOMAS W. GALLAGHER
Superintendent

June 25, 1973

Mr. David Adams
Personnel Director
Foseco, Inc.
20200 Sheldon Rd.
Cleveland, Ohio 44142

Dear Mr. Adams:

Mr. Seipel and I want to thank you for the courtesy and time given to us during our recent visit on June 13, 1973.

Enclosed is a copy of a report that is being forwarded to the Legal Section of the Industrial Commission of Ohio Regarding O.D. 158376, Thomas Devara.

If at any time in the future you should feel that this Division can be of assistance to your company on industrial hygiene or engineering matters relating to safety, please call on us.

Very truly yours,

Joseph M. Paase, P.E.
Industrial Hygiene Engineer

JMP:jlp

SAFETY DIRECTOR to all Ohio industry

18
FOSECO 1667

June 26, 1973

Legal Section
Industrial Commission of Ohio
Ohio Departments Building
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Attention: Robert L. Robbins
Room 104

Re: O.D. 158376
Thomas Davern

Gentlemen:

On June 13, 1973, a visit was made to the plant of Fosco, Inc. at Cleveland, Ohio to check conditions under which the claimant had worked.

The company manufactures anorthemic and insulating hot tops for the steel industry, anorthemic riser sleeves, fluxes and metallurgical chemicals for foundries.

Started work - September 9, 1972

Last day worked - March 3, 1973

The claimant was employed in the department where hot top boards are formed. He served two (2) months on the pulpers and four (4) months on the ovens while in this department. A pulper makes about 30 mixes each day. A mix is made up by adding silica flour, asbestos and resin to water in one of five large pulper tanks. About 600 lbs. of these solids are added per tank. After approximately an hour in the mixing tanks, the pulp is drawn off on to screens of the proper size and shape to form the desired hot top board. The uncured boards are then stacked on wheeled racks which are put into ovens. After curing, the racks are removed from the oven and the boards are removed. When the claimant worked on the ovens he would remove the racks from the oven, take off and stack the cured boards. At the time of this visit no activity was taking place on the platform adjacent to the pulper tanks and only minimal activity was taking place at the exit of the curing oven. No dust count was made, therefore, since it was felt that it would not be representative. Mr. Robert Bursh of this Division, however, during the course of an industrial hygiene survey that he conducted at this plant on August 16 and 17, 1972 did make dust concentration measurements on the platform of the pulpers by three separate methods. These were 1) Millipore membrane filter for the measurement of airborne asbestos fibre; 2) gravimetric method for measurement of airborne dust and; 3) midge impinger methods

also for the measurement of airborne dust concentrations. The following excerpt is taken from Mr. Marsh's report on that survey and relates to his counts taken on the pulper platform.

"Measurements were made on the operating platform of the pulpers by the procedures described...above. The asbestos fibre count of 0.09 fibres per milliliter indicates no hazard. Based on inert particulates, the dust level of 2.1 milligrams per cubic meter and 0.8 million particles per cubic foot of air do not appear hazardous. If there should be a significant proportion of respirable free silica this conclusion would need to be modified in the case of the gravimetric measurement."

In August, 1963, Donald Ramsey of this Division also visited this area and concludes his report with the statement, "a condition constituting a health hazard was not observed during this visit."

The pulper platform and nearby areas does show evidence of settled dust and it is very likely that an individual opening and putting bags of silica flour into the mixers could be exposed at that time to concentrations of airborne dust containing significant percentages of free silica. It is pointed out however, that these exposures would not be continuous and should diminish quickly once the material is added and the mixer covered. The observations and measurements of Marsh, Marsh and Ramsey support this observation.

The claimant was given a pre-employment physical which did not include a chest x-ray. The claimant was previously employed by the Olin Chemical Company in Cleveland, Ohio. He left his job with that company because of a purported allergy to the chemicals used there. While with the subject employer the claimant supplied his own respirator. It is not known what contaminants would be effectively screened by this respirator.

In summary it is considered that this claimant very probably had, from time to time, been exposed to concentrations airborne dust containing significant levels of free silica but that his work area near the pulpers and even was satisfactory from an industrial hygiene standpoint. The following is quoted from Threshold Limit Values of Airborne Contaminants Adopted by the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists and may have special significance in this case: "Because of wide variation in individual susceptibility, however, a small percentage of workers may experience discomfort from some substances at concentrations at or below the threshold limit, a smaller percentage may be affected more seriously by aggravation of a pre-existing condition or by development of an occupational disease."

Very truly yours,

Joseph M. Faust, P.E.
Industrial Hygiene Engineer

FOSECO 1669

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20