

FILE NAME: Owens-Corning (OC)

DATE: 1969 Aug 22

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DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Detailed Grievance Statement RE Dust and Working Conditions in OC Berlin Plant with Cover Letter

August 22, 1969

M. D. Burch
Director of Personnel and
Industrial Relations
Owens-Corning Fiberglas Corp.
P. O. Box 901
Toledo, Ohio 43601

Dear Mr. Burch:

I am attaching hereto a copy of a statement received from Berlin, New Jersey. I have had a series of problems with apparent working conditions and the attached statement speaks for itself. Since this has been a continuing thing, there must be something that can be done to correct it.

I have to point out in the first paragraph of the transmittal that this matter is not in our constitution but was a resolution developed by the Health and Welfare Committee.

I, of course, will have the opportunity to see you on Tuesday morning and we can discuss the matter in more detail.

Sincerely,

Lee W. Minton

Lee W. Minton
International President

LWM:njr
attachment

safety matters should be made a grievance after they are discussed and the Union Committee feels that the Company is either moving too slow or not going anything about this serious matter. In the name of the Local, the officers of Local 231 and the Safety Committee file a grievance on the following items.

(1) The general dust condition throughout the plant. We are calling for immediate correction of this dust condition. (2) Calling for a regular floor cleaning program that would be followed each shift of the operation of this plant. (3) Calling for dust correction at the Flatware Finishing Line, especially at the loading box station. These men are continuously being subject to a concentration of dust at the boxing end of this line. The entire line condition is not good. (4) Router area needs correcting.

(5) Batch mixing dust needs correcting. The hazardous method of feeding batch to this department by a lift truck should be discontinued. The method of cooling molds with large high-powered fans on the floor of the Production Department should be discontinued and another method installed. This keeps a constant agitation of dust spread throughout the production area. (6) The number of vehicles moving back and forth in the production area continuously stir up the dust. Some methods should be devised to minimize this traffic and keep the dust on the floors at a minimum.

(7) The use of fiberglass pads after they deteriorate and burn. This keeps a constant amount of fiberglass dust and other dust into the atmosphere by the cages passing in front of cooling fans, dropping off of lift trucks, and is a constant source of irritation to the employees.

(8) The saws need serious attention.

(9) Special Assembly Department. The Lines Nos. 1, 2 and 3 where the men strip, this dust method should be corrected instead of the method now used of blowing the dust into faces of one man from another.

(10) The method of bulk loading material where the trucks discharge their load into the bulk system. Here there is carelessness and the dust from these trucks blows into the plant in a large cloud.

(11) The ventilating of the Dowtherm area over the top of the Dowtherm pumps. Any ventilation coming into this area must pass over the pumps and contaminated with Dowtherm fumes before it gets into the plant. Another method of ventilating this area should be devised.

(12) High noise level from machinery - steam leaks.

(13) The Local Union and the Safety Committee are further calling for an educational program to aware the employees of this plant of the seriousness of the contents of this dust so that everyone is very familiar with this fact and through their daily work will do whatever they can to reduce the amount of dust.

(14) Attached to this grievance will be an additional list of requests by the Safety Committee for other improvements.

Kew Sanders
+ committee 562