FILE NAME: Owens-Corning (OC)

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SPECIAL HAZARDS SURVEY

Prepared for OWENS-CORNING FIBERGLAS
BERLIN, N. J.

SUBJECT

OCCUPATIONAL DUST HAZARDS



ANOTHER SERVICE FROM THE OFFICE OF

VICTOR & CAVANAUGH

Prepared by

D. H.

RESEARCH DIVISION

Safety Engineering Department

ÆTNA CASUALTY AND SURETY COMPANY

Affiliated with Ætna Life Insurance Company • Standard Fire Insurance

OWENS CORNING FIBERGLAS
BERLIN, N. J.

May 12, 1961

PURPOSE:

This visit was made at the request of our Philadelphia Engineering [illegible] to evaluate the employee asbestosis exposure associated with your batch [illegible] and routing operations.

CONTACTS:

In company with our Philadelphia Engineering Superintendent, Mr. [illegible] I contacted your Plant Manager, Mr. O. W. Zeller.

PROCEDURE:

Air was sampled at the rate of 0.1 cubic feet per minute utilizing midget impingers with isopropyl alcohol as collecting media. The samples were taken in the general area of the units and operations surveyed as well as in the employees breathing zones at specified locations. Dust counts were made on a light field as prescribed by the United States Public Health Service method for dust counting.

FINDINGS:

Our findings, as well as pertinent remarks can be studied and interpreted from the attached Appendix A.

CRITERIA:

The threshold limit adopted at the 22nd Annual Meeting of Governmental Industrial Hygienists for mineral dusts containing asbestos is 5 million particles per cubic foot of air.

DISCUSSION:

With reference to the above, it can be seen that in only two of the operations studied has the threshold limit been exceeded. It should be pointed out, however, that although the threshold limit value has been exceeded in both operations that the limit in one instance was only slightly exceeded and in the other operation the exposure was intermittent.

It was not possible for us to make a dust study at the feed end of the [illegible] finishing line since the line was not operating after the lunch hour. The counts at the other locations on the line, viz. the turnover, and the two packaging stations were close to or exceeding (See sample No. 3 in Appendix A) the threshold

limit. We would like to point out, however, that at all these stations, there was a considerable improvement from that noted on our Mr. Robinson's 1959 survey. In addition, we were assured that the employee exposed to the highest concentrations normally wears a respirator. We would recommend, however, that the exhaust systems on this line be properly maintained and kept operating at peak efficiency.

The dust levels noted near your trim cans were well below the prescribed threshold limit. Samples were taken at operator's breathing level near trim cans A and B. Both of these were working on 3x1 pieces. The notes from these stations at both levels were approximately the same. The Trim B [illegible] on the larger 12x24 pieces was not running during our survey.

The general area dust concentrations in the Batch House was well within prescribed limits. The counts noted at operator's breathing level during the mixing operation was slightly higher. Since dusts of a siliceous nature such as lime, limestone and other ingredients would also occur in our foundries and since this is an intermittent operation, 12 minutes per batch for approximately 4 to 10 batches per day, it is our belief that the exposure here is not serious.

CONCLUSION:

The dust counts made from the air samples taken at the various locations in your asbestos operations were found to be within the prescribed threshold limits. There are no recommendations being submitted at this time.

The writer wishes to express his appreciation for the courtesy extended to him during his visit.

D. Ey, Research Division
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NO.	UNIT	LOCATION	REMARKS	EMPLOYEES EXPOSED	RESULTS (1)
1.	Billet Finishing Machine	Feed Station Operator's breathing zone.	Packaging & wrapping unit tool operations.	2 of 1	2.6
2.	Flat Wire Finishing Machine	Packaging Employee's breathing zone (Far end)	Employee does not wear respirator	1	0.3
3.	" "	Packaging Employee's breathing zone (nearest operator)	Employee wears respirator constantly	1	0.4
4.	" "	Turn-Over Station Operator's breathing zone.		1	3.2
5.	Area Sec A	Operator's breathing level		1	2.6
6.	Area Sec B	" "		1	2.5
7.	Batch Houts	General Area		2	0.0
8.	" "	Operator's breathing zone during mixing operation	Intermittent exposure (12 limited per batch)	1	21.2

(1) Results are expressed in milligrams per cubic meter of air as determined by the midget impinger technique.

B. R. Roy