

SAFETY ORGANIZATION AND SAFETY INSPECTION

appear to be a possible hazard might interrupt work at great expense without actually affording any protection. Consequently, authority to condemn equipment should be exercised with a great deal of caution by the inspector.

Checking plans and specifications

An important duty of the safety director should be that of checking plans and specifications for both new plant buildings and equipment as well as products made. This highly important function presents an opportunity to discover and correct conditions that may otherwise be built into the plant and plant equipment and that would later result in injuries. Some companies will not permit a drawing or specification to be used until it has been approved by the safety department. Hazards involved in making and using products should be minimized insofar as possible.

The safety department should also make sure that plant policies and applicable standards are followed in purchase specifications for new materials and equipment or for modification to existing equipment. Some companies have arranged for the purchasing department to notify the safety department when new materials or equipment are to be purchased. For instance, when a new chemical is requested, the safety department should see that information on flammability, toxicity, and similar properties is obtained from the manufacturer. This Manual outlines requirements and performance standards that should be used to evaluate

the safety specifications for purchases of industrial equipment and raw materials.

Making safety an integral part of any modification or addition to the industrial plant means that, to list a few examples, each new machine will be received with its moving parts guarded, that all raw materials will be shipped in a manner to minimize preprocess handling hazards, and that selection of a flammable solvent will be based on control by existing local exhaust systems. Such planning should impress employees with the fact that the company considers safety as a basic part of its operation, and not as an afterthought.

Night inspections

When a plant is working on a two- or three-shift schedule, it is desirable occasionally to have inspectors working with each shift. Safety conditions vary considerably after dark, because of artificial illumination. The inspectors should make sure that adequate illumination is provided and that the lighting system is maintained in a satisfactory condition (Fig 2-12). Use a sufficiently sensitive light meter.

When regular night shifts are not employed, night working conditions frequently go unobserved. An inspector should be assigned to make occasional plant visits to check on the safety of maintenance men, firemen, and others who may be required to work after dark. Also, an occasional trip with the night watchman to observe the conditions under which they work should be made.

References

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