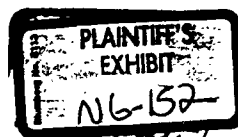


FILE NAME: National Gypsum (NG)

DATE: 1953 July 6

DOC#: NG066

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Internal Inspection Report - Air Samples in the Asbestos Plant in New Orleans



July 6, 1953

National Gypsum Company
325 Delaware Avenue
Buffalo, New York

Attention: Mr. M.C.M. Pollard,
Safety Director

Gentlemen:

On June 9 and 10th, the writer took air samples in the Asbestone plant New Orleans. Counts were made with the following results:

Sample No. 1. Taken at the regrinding machine platform. - 55,200,000 particles per cubic foot of air. A test made with a velometer indicated a velocity of air over the hood from the platform fan of 550 feet per minute. The flow of air into the hood is only 220 feet per minute. (See sketch No. 1) The exhaust system would be much more effective if the use of the platform fan was discontinued.

MIXER FLOOR NO. 2

Sample No. 2. Taken in the aisle back of hopper while asbestos was fed into blower (See sketch No. 2) The count was 8,320,000 particles per cubic foot of air. Here again the disturbance caused by the platform fan appeared to be the primary cause of dust.

Sample No. 3. Taken at the loading platform of the beater. The majority of the dust originated at the spout of the cement elevator, picked up by the air velocity of 850 feet per minute created by a platform fan. The dust count was 22,240,000 particles per cubic foot of air.

Sample No. 4. Taken in the regrind bin. The count was extremely high - 1,696,000,000 particles per cubic foot of air. Two men were exposed to this dust concentration for about 20% of their time. At the north door of this bin an incoming velocity of 150 feet per minute was indicated, due to action of the platform fan at the beater. The west door of the bin indicated outgoing velocities of up to 75 feet per minute. This flow of air carried dust from the regrind bin out into the general floor area.

Sample No. 5. Taken in the aisle just west of the beater and another hopper. The count was 10,720,000 particles per cubic foot of air. It appears that the most of this dust comes from the regrind bin.

SAW DEPARTMENT

Sample No. 6. Taken at the saws as indicated on sketch No. 3, and the count was 8,310,000 particles per cubic foot of air.

Sample No. 7. Taken between the saw lines at point indicated. Count was 6,240,000 particles per cubic foot of air. In this department also, the high velocity platform fans appeared to nullify to some extent the efficiency of the exhaust systems.

CONCLUSION: - With the exception of the regrind platform and the regrind bin the counts do not seem excessive. However, the amount of asbestos that can be safely tolerated without injury has not been clearly established. Therefore, the safest procedure is to eliminate as much dust as possible.

Three recommendations would therefore be in order, as follows:

1. That all platform fans be eliminated at points where the flow of air creates dust or minimizes the effect of an exhaust system.
2. That some means be devised to remove the regrind material from the bin without the necessity of men entering the bin. A screw conveyor might do this.
3. That roof ventilation be provided to prevent the flow of dust-laden air across the working areas and the breathing zone of the operators. This should also serve as a means of lowering the excessive temperatures noted in some areas.

Thanking you for this opportunity of serving you, and hoping these findings and suggestions are helpful, we remain,

Very truly yours,

LIVERACK & HAINES, INC.

A.B. Hoffmeyer
Safety Director

add..ja