

FILE NAME: Goodyear (GY)

DATE: 1962 June 4

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June 4, 1962

Bureau of Workmen's Compensation
Ohio Departments Building
Columbus 15, Ohio

Attention: Mr. Paul J. Dragan
Room 410-A

Re: O. D. 7542-22
George E. Young, Dec'd.

Gentlemen:

On May 25, 1962 a visit was made to the Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company, Akron, Ohio to check conditions under which the above named decedent had worked. The company manufactures Pliofilm, a transparent rubber hydrochloride film, in the plant in which the decedent had been employed from 1949 to 1961.

The decedent's employment experience with this company is as follows:

6/29/43 - 10/10/49	Truck tire builder
10/10/49 - 6/26/61	Solution operator and neutraliser; Pliofilm Department.

In the manufacture of Pliofilm, compounded rubber is dissolved in benzol and then anhydrous hydrogen chloride is bubbled through the solution to form a rubber hydrochloride. Excess HCl is removed by neutralizing with soda ash. The solution is then pumped through a filter press to remove solids. Water is added to the rubber hydrochloride cement and benzol is stripped out. The rubber hydrochloride is put on a coating machine and the liquid including residual benzol is evaporated to form a film.

The decedent was a solution operator and a neutraliser in the Pliofilm Department. The same employee does both jobs. A solution operator dissolves the compounded rubber in the benzol solvent. Benzol is piped into the reactor and the rubber is fed into the reactor by conveyor through an opening in the top of it. After anhydrous hydrogen chloride has been put into the rubber solution to form rubber hydrochloride, the excess HCl is neutralized with soda ash. The neutraliser operator does this by opening a manhole in the top of the reactor and dumping in a bag of soda ash. He also cleans the plate-and-frame filter press used to remove the excess soda ash.

A solution operator and neutraliser appears to spend his time about as follows:

ITEM	HOURL(S)/DAY	LOCATION
1.	0.3	Changing cloths on plate-and-frame filter press.
2.	1.4	Other work with filter presses.
3.	0.1	At neutralizing tanks.
4.	4.4	General filter press, neutralizing and storage area.

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CONT'D:

Re: O.D. 7542-22

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<u>ITEM</u>	<u>HOUR(S)/DAY</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
5.	0.3	Scrap cutter.
6.	0.8	Shift foreman's office.
7.	0.7	Lunch and washrooms.

A systematic air sampling procedure was not used in this department until about 1958, therefore, concentrations of benzol vapors prior to the last few years are not accurately known. It has been estimated that concentrations in working areas were probably about at the MAC value accepted at that time, 100 ppm. Since 1958 ventilation changes have been made which have substantially lowered benzol concentrations. Monthly air samples for the last five years show the benzol concentration in the filter press and neutraliser room to average 20 ppm.

Of the above listed times, the benzol concentration during Item No. 1 ranges from 40 ppm. upward. During Item Nos. 2, 3 and 4 the vapor concentration shown by the monthly air samples to average 20 ppm. was present. Prior to 1958 this value was higher. During Item Nos. 5, 6 and 7 there is no exposure to benzol vapor.

A copy of a survey made on September 12, 1961 is enclosed for general information.

Very truly yours,

DONALD W. KIMSEY
Industrial Hygienist

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