

Caterpillar

- Nothing asbestos specific
- York Pa
- 1971 documents show evidence of company officials, air recirculation request, and pre-placement medical exams which includes x-rays.
- 1954 inspection

CO File
2990 Jefferson Street
Harrisburg, PA 17110
July 16, 1971

Caterpillar Tractor Company
Building B
Memory Lane
York, PA 17402

Attention: Mr. Robert Dunmire
Safety Supervisor

Gentlemen:

In response to your telephoned request, Mr. Frederick Miller, industrial hygienist, visited your plant on July 8, 1971 to evaluate the exhaust ventilation serving the chrome plating operation.

Several determinations of air flow velocity and direction were made in the employees' breathing zones at the chrome plating tanks. This was done on the platform and at floor level with and without the operation of a nearby pedestal fan.

Capture velocities of the local exhaust ventilation system at the ends of the plating tanks were found to be adequate either with or without the fan operating. They should remain so as long as the fan is not directed at or over the top of any plating tank. The addition of the plastic spheres to the surface of the chrome plating tanks should also help prevent dispersion of acid mist into the work atmosphere.

Based on the results of this investigation, no recommendations are necessary under conditions existing at the time of the visit. Should there be any changes in these conditions or if you desire it, a survey for chromic acid mist can be performed.

For your information we are enclosing Hygienic Information Guides entitled "Chromium and its Compounds," "Occupational Health," and "Ventilation." If you have any further questions on this matter, let us know.

Very truly yours,

Leroy O. Plets
Regional Industrial Hygienist
Division of Occupational Health

LOP:FCM:am
Enclosures

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COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
OCCUPATIONAL HEALTHREGION III
PROD. MFG. OR SERVICE Assembly of
tracks and component parts
DATE OF ACTIVITY 7-6-71FIELD ACTIVITY REPORT
(Occupational Health)

PLANT

Caterpillar Tractor Company, Building B

ADDRESS

Memory Lane, York

PERSON INTERVIEWED

Robert Dunmire

EMPLOYEES

ZIP CODE

17402

TELEPHONE

777-755-2956

TITLE

Safety Supervisor

IND. CODE

35

COUNTY

67

MALE

FEMALE

TOTAL 402

PUNCH CARD

YES ☒NO ☐

FOLDER

YES ☒NO ☐

N.S.N.

YES ☐NO ☒PURPOSE: INVEST.; SURVEY; INSP.; PRELIM.; F.U.; CONF.; VISIT; OTHERREASON: SELF-INIT.; P.D. REP.; COMPL.; REQUEST; SOURCE Robert Dunmire

SAMPLES COLLECTED

(NO. & KIND)

TOTAL

DETERM. MADE

(NO. & KIND)

Air flow measurements (Alnor Velometer Jr.) (15)

TOTAL

22Air movements direction (smoke tubes) (7)

MEDICAL - O.D. REPORTED, NO. & KIND

RECOMMENDATIONS AND REMARKS

SPECIFIC HAZARD OR CONDITION	WORKERS EXPOSED	RECOMMENDATIONS		ACCOMPLISHED		
		WRITTEN ... VERBAL		YES	NO	IN PROG.

Chronic acid mist

9

None

Remarks:

Mr. Dunmire telephoned July 6 and requested the Industrial Hygienist to observe the chrome plating operation since there have been some complaints of excessive mist in the area. Mr. Dunmire was to be away July 7 so arrangements were made to make the investigation on July 8.

The chrome plating site was visited and several measurements made of the capture velocity of the local exhaust ventilation system with and without the presence of a pedestal fan. Several observations of air direction were made with smoke tubes while the fan was operating. Ventilation and air movement were found to be satisfactory for removal of the chromic acid mist.

The background of this situation is about as follows: Sometime last year the exhaust system was revamped and portions of it replaced. As warm weather arrived the employees on the second and third shifts began to complain of excessive amounts of chromic acid mist in the atmosphere. Their criterion was the brown stains appearing on a paper sheet used for recording which lay on a stand near one of the three chromic acid tanks. As a result a litmus paper test was made of the atmosphere during the third shift and these results sent to the company industrial hygienist in Peoria, Illinois. Analysis indicated exposures slightly above the T.O.V. when the pedestal fan is running. It was then decided to add plastic spheres to the tanks containing chromic acid. Since this time the paper mentioned above has remained free of brown stains and there have been no more complaints. Nevertheless, the Company requested an opinion from a State Industrial Hygienist and also desired to know whether the operation

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BY F. Miller

WINS

☒ OVER

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RIH

of a pedestal fan requested by the employees would interfere with the efficiency of the ventilation system. Measurements made on this date appear to indicate that the pedestal fan does not adversely affect the capture velocity of the slot exhaust. Mr. Dunmire is satisfied that the problem has been abated and will notify if any further complaints occur. Plant now provides a very good rubber glove for these chrome plating workers but they won't wear them. Bath temperature is about 100°F. Exposure consists mostly of operating hoist to raise and lower items. Eight hours exposure is general air.

I discussed this at some length with Mr. Miller to see whether a survey is in order. It does not seem to be necessary from his description of the investigation. However, should any more complaints come forth, we will survey.

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CATERPILLAR TRACTOR CO.

Handwritten:
16/7 to Region 14
3/10/71

P.O. Box No. 787
York, Pennsylvania 17405
Area Code 717
Telephone 755-2956

March 9, 1971

Pennsylvania Department of Health
Division of Occupational Health
P.O. Box 90
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

Gentlemen:

Please forward about 20 copies of Form HIH-19155 - Application
for Approval of Air Recirculation System.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

W. W. Norton

Plant Engineer

WWNorton
dd

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REGION III

PROD. MFG. OR SERVICE

tractor parts

DATE OF ACTIVITY August 14, 1970

FIELD ACTIVITY REPORT

PLANT

Caterpillar Tractor Company - Building B

ADDRESS

Memory Lane, York

ZIP

17402

PHONE

755-1911

PERSON INTERVIEWED

None

TITLE

EMPLOYEES

MALE 402

FEMALE 0

TOTAL 402

IND. CODE

35

COUNTY

67

PURPOSE: INVEST.; SURVEY; INSPECT.; PRELIM.; F.U.; CONF.; VISIT;

REASON: SELF-INIT.; O.D. REP.; COMPL.; REQUEST; SOURCE

SPECIFIC HAZARD OR CONDITION	WORKERS EXPOSED	RECOMMENDATIONS	ACCOMPLISHED		
		(WRITTEN) - - VERBAL	YES	NO	IN PROG.
<u>Air recirculation</u>	<u>502</u>	<u>Air recirculation</u>	<u>X</u>		
<u>at brass honing</u>		<u>at brass-honing operation</u>			
<u>operation</u>					

SAMPLES COLLECTED (NO. & KIND)

None

TOTAL

DETERM. MADE (NO. & KIND)

None

TOTAL

MEDICAL - O.D. REPORTED, NO. & KIND

None

PUNCH CARD

YES



NO



FOLDER

YES



NO



REMARKS:

Forms for request to recirculate air at brass-honing operation have been received in the Regional Office.

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BY F. Miller

RTH

WINS

August 1954

SUBJECT: Caterpillar Tractor Company
(Turn left off Lancaster Pike at Trucktown at
Edgecombe Steel sign)
York
TO: Joseph Shilen, M.D., Director
Bureau of Industrial Hygiene

830 employees

York County

FROM: *JCS*
Frances C. Hickey
Industrial Nursing Consultant

I was challenged as I entered the plant premises by pickets but allowed to proceed when I explained I was a nurse from the Department of Health. C.I.O employees had gone on strike this morning. They are demanding a wage increase basing their demand on the argument that the wage scale in all Caterpillar plants should be the same even though living costs in different areas vary.

This plant makes replacement parts for tractors and is operating only one shift, with only a skeleton crew of maintenance personnel on the second and third shifts. Approximately 200 women, all office workers, are employed.

Mrs. Ruth Keele and Mr. L. C. Allenbrand, general manager, met me in the lobby. I explained the purpose of my visit to Mr. Allenbrand and also the Bureau's services. He was given a copy of "Know Your Bureau of Industrial Hygiene." After this, Mrs. Keele and I went to the health service.

She has been employed here since December 1953. Her previous experience in this field is limited to three months at York Corporation. She was in the Air Force Nurse Corps and received good experience in administration there. Drs. R. D. and H. H. McDougall visit the plant each morning at 8:30. They are employed on a flat fee basis. Mr. Frank Nunan, safety and health director is administratively in charge. He was out of town on this date.

A large suite of rooms has been provided. These include a waiting room, treatment and nurse's office, doctor's office, laboratory (one bed is in here for ill employees), a physical therapy room, X-ray and developing room, and two lavatories. The arrangement is not good and requires much walking which results in lost time and fatigue for Mrs. Keele.

Complete preplacement physical examinations, including a urinalysis and chest X-ray are given. Vision testing, using the American Optical Company's machine, is done by the personnel office. If prescription lens for safety glasses are needed, the company payshalf the cost.

An individual folder is kept on each employee in a locked file. Mrs. Keele developed a cumulative record using a 5 x 8 card. The daily log

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is that set up by the Peoria office. The physical examination form is theirs also.

There is a large auditorium in the building which could be used for showing health films and for group talks. Mrs. Keele tried to promote this but Mr. Nunan did not approve. In consequence, all that is done in health teaching is that which the doctors and nurse do in contact with the individual employees. Mrs. Keele is kept very busy and does not have much opportunity with 830 employees and the task of taking and developing X-rays, giving diathermy and hydrotherapy treatments. She was urged to do all she could in health supervision and teaching. She wants to have a literature rack in the waiting room. She has begun a draft of medical directives for the doctors approval and hopes to develop a manual.

My suggestions included:

1. A new individual health and service record
2. A monthly report form
3. That she obtain as quickly as possible signed medical directives
4. That trained first-aiders be designated for the second and third shifts and appropriate provision be made for them to record what they do and they be governed by the standing orders for first aiders given in the Red Cross First-Aid Textbook.

Mrs. Keele was given the Bureau booklet, Concepts of and Factors Essential to an Adequate In-Plant Health Program, Sample Records, Manual Outline, and the bibliography. The use of these materials and their purpose was explained.

I am to return in the near future to meet Mr. Nunan.

FCH:efh

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