

January 30, 1970

TO: E. Balcar
cc R. T. Budovec
W. J. Sheehan
G. M. Brown

FROM: A. C. Dieter

SUBJECT: Industrial Hygiene Survey
Asbestos Warehouse and Beater Room Ventilation

Re: A. Dieter's letter to W. Sheehan dated 12-17-69.

The following is a summary of the meeting we had set up with Mr. Romeo Formentini of Firemen's Fund for 1-27-70, which you could not attend.

We went over all the modifications that have been made and discussed our reasons for not making some as I outline in my memo of 12-17-69 to Mr. Sheehan. Generally, he was in agreement with my thinking but withheld any discussion concerning the effectiveness of our revisions until after another dust survey. He suggests very strongly another dust survey and feels as I do that adequate progress has been made to justify it to see where we stand.

I think arrangements for this survey should be handled by your people, so I will leave that to you. If I can be of any help, please call.



A. C. Dieter

jm

VPD-153-0002245

DANA-299

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Bob Barker

I suggest that Mr. Barker
Mr. Barker control the motion
of the camera and go over
with him all of the conditions to be
on his recommendations - as a
follow up

A Dieter

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VPD-153-0002246

December 17, 1969

TO: W. J. Sheehan
cc R. T. Budovec
M. J. Hill
G. M. Brown

FROM: A. C. Dieter

RE: Industrial Hygiene Survey
Asbestos Warehouse and Beater Room Ventilation

Apparently the summaries I made in my memo of December 1, confused the progress report rather than simplifying it as was intended - for this I apologize. The following is a detailed report by item of the progress made in each area.

Recommendation

1. As far as being practical, the Beater Room should be cut off from the remainder of the plant with openings and partitions as dust tight as possible.

Action taken: The Beater Room has always been isolated with Class "A" fire doors which are reasonably dust tight. The addition of an exhaust system as recommended in item 2 will further aid this isolation since it will put this room under slight negative pressure which will prevent exfiltration of dust.

2. Adequate input air and forced ventilation system should be provided so as to draw dust away from the breathing zone of the operator. Preferably this should be a local system with down draft exhausts leading from the mixing vat to the outside.

Action taken: Installed as recommended.

3. It is suggested that adequate humidity control be provided so that the humidity of the atmosphere in the Beater Room be such that the dust mentioned will be held at a minimum.

Action taken: With the success of the dust collection system mentioned in item 2 and the cost and difficulty of maintaining humidity controls, it is felt this will not be necessary.

VPD-153-0002247

December 17, 1969

- 2 -

4. A fine water spray in conjunction with necessary closure of the mixing vats should be installed to prevent the mixing machine from producing dust by immediately wetting the asbestos fibers poured into the mixing machine.

Action taken: With the success of the dust collection system mentioned in item 2, it is felt this will be unnecessary.

5. Beater man should be required to wear inhalation masks and at all times while in the Beater Room.

Action taken: Was and still is S.O.P.

6. Clean up of the Beater Room should be done by vacuum process then sweep up if possible.

Action taken: Cleaned via industrial vacuum.

7. When clean up of the Beater Room is made, the scrap asbestos on the floor, overhead, etc., should be moistened as much as practical prior to vacuuming. (This possibly could be done by adequate increase of general humidity.)

Action taken: The industrial vacuum used in the clean up would not handle wet dust. It did clean up and control dust to prevent any further hazard.

8. Adequate forced ventilation and input are and should be provided for the packing room with local exhaust hoods and vents provided to draw the dust away from the operator's breathing zone. Such hoods and ducts should be as close as possible to the source of the dust, at the bag filling spout.

Action taken: In addition to the local exhaust hood which has been located in the bagger, we have provided fresh filtered air in such a way that it will wash the operator's face.

9. The Bagging Room should be cut off from the remainder of the plant with doors and openings being as dust tight as possible. Particular attention should be made to the separation of the Bagger Room from the adjacent room in which the dust collector bags are located.

Action taken: The Bagging Room is separated from the remainder of the plant by Class "A" fire doors. With the reducting of fibers as outlined in item 10, the interior dust collector bags referred to will be eliminated.

VPD-153-0002248

10. Preferably, the collector bags from the dust collectors should be outside of the plant building walls. If this is not practical, the room containing the collector bags should be dust tight.

Action taken: With the recent completion of experimental runs on the corbestos fiberizer, we have changed the duct work of existing systems so that the interior dust collection bags can be eliminated along with the corbestos fiberizer and the Victopac fiberizer.

11. Forced exhaust and input air system should be provided for the room containing the dust collector bags.

Action taken: The interior dust collector bags have been eliminated.

12. The method of securing the burlap bags to the filler spout of the bagging facility should be inspected to determine if a more foolproof method of securing the bags can be found to eliminate the hazard of excessive dust when such bags pull loose from the spout during the filling operation.

Action taken: An investigation revealed that no real problem occurred during the bagging operation only when the bags are removed does some fiber fall free. This will always occur and with the other precautions which have been taken this little bit should be no hazard.

13. Adequate humidity control for the Bagger Room should be provided to maintain as low a level of dust suspended in air as possible.

Action taken: As with the similar recommendation for the Beater Room, (item 3) it is felt that no appreciable improvement will be made by adding humidity controls in this area. There are adequate dust collecting facilities available to handle the dust generated.

14. Provision should be made so that the bagger can control the filling spout in the event that the bag should pull loose from the filling spout during filling.

14. Continued . . .

Action taken: The current procedure allows the operator two alternatives should a bag pull loose during filling.

a. Change over to the other side.

b. Turn system off.

I see no reason for further controls.

15. The bagger should be required to wear inhalation mask at all times when in the Bagger Room.

Action taken: This is S.O.P.

16. Preferably, the asbestos grinding operation should be cut off from the remainder of the plant.

Action taken: None - no dust is present at the grinder.

17.

- (A) If practical, the blower mechanism should be electrically interlocked with the grinding operations so that in the event that the bag filling and blowing operation has to be interrupted, the grinding operation will also be stopped. Also, this would prevent grinder operation without proper dust collecting facilities in operation.

Action taken: It is impractical without rather elaborate controls since we do not want to shut down the grinder while loaded. This would make restarting difficult at best. The system currently has a buzzer signal which provides the same protection.

- (B) The operation and efficiency of the dust collection system should be reviewed with attention given to the types of collector bags in use, their replacement schedule, and the extent of which fines emanate from the collector bags.

Action taken: The system has been checked and is operating properly. We use the best collector bags available and replace them when necessary. Any fines emanated are exhausted therefore causing no hazard.

18. A definite schedule and record of replacement of inhalation mask filters should be established and maintained.

December 17, 1969

- 5 -

18. Continued . . .

Action taken: Replacement has been and is still done on an as required basis. It was found impractical to do on a scheduled basis. There is a supply on hand.

19. It is suggested that chest X ray for employees involved in all or any asbestos operations should be put on a semi-annual schedule.

Action taken: None to date - upon completion of all precautions presently being taken a review of the operations will be made to determine the frequencies required.

20. It is suggested that the work duties of all employees currently and previously employed in the asbestos department be reviewed and that the work duties in which they were engaged when not in the asbestos department be reviewed and recorded.

Action taken: None - the assignments of all employees are a matter of record.

I hope this will answer any questions involved.



A. C. Dieter

jm

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