INTERNAL CORRESPONDENCE

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UNION CARBIDE CORPORATION • 270 PARK AVENUE, NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10017

To (Name) Mr. J. L. Myers
Division Mining & Metals Division
Location P. O. Box 579
Niagara Falls, New York

Date March 3, 1972

Originating Dept.

Answering letter date

Subject

Copy to Mr. W. N. Johnson
Mr. J. W. Rawlings
Dr. J. J. Welsh/Dr. K. S. Lane

Dear Mr. Myers:

The following is the report of the survey we conducted at American Biltrite Company plant in Trenton, New Jersey, March 1, 1972. The purpose of the survey was to obtain information on the concentration of asbestos fibers in the work environment during the use of asbestos in the manufacture of plastic tile.

Samples of airborne particulates were collected on Millipore filter paper at typical work points by use of battery-powered air pumps. They were examined for fiber content by the microscopic procedure recommended in the proposed amendment of OSHA regulations, Federal Register, January 12, 1972. Results are given below.

Location	Fibers 5 microns or longer per milliliter of air*
Inside box car during manual handling of bags of asbestos preparatory for use of fork-lift (Phillips-Carey TTS3).	21.09
Beside operator on platform at Banbury #3 (line 1) (operating), local ventilation 40# TTS3/bucket	1.28
Background on platform for line 2 blender (no loading of asbestos).	0.54
Platform for line 2 blender while loading 18 bags of Phillips-Carey TTS3.	2.03
Aisleway between Banbury lines 1 & 3.	0.75
Aisle back of No. 2 mill.	1.41
At tile cut-out machine.	1.11

*OSHA limit - 5 fibers per milliliter of air

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While there was considerable visible dust in the air at most of the locations sampled, the actual fiber content was not great implying that the visible dust consisted of other tile mix ingredients. One exception in fiber count was noted during the manual handling of bags of asbestos in a box car in preparation for use of a fork-lift truck. Strangely enough, the amount of visible dust at this operation was considerably less than noted inside the plant.

During operations involving the direct handling of asbestos (unloading the box car, dumping bag contents into blenders, removing empty bags, etc.) and for certain other operations, personnel wore paper throw-away respirators that appeared to be 3M (Minnesota Mining & Milling) products. These respirators do not conform with the requirements of the proposed OSHA amendments and therefore are not acceptable for control of exposure to asbestos. For this purpose, only respirators approved by the U. S. Bureau of Mines under Schedule 21B or the more restrictive schedules in cases of higher air concentrations of fiber are allowed. The selection of the respirator needed for any one point of exposure will depend on the concentration of asbestos encountered.

Very truly yours,

Paul W. McDaniel

Paul W. McDaniel
Industrial Hygiene Engineer

PWM:dp

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