FILE NAME: Goodyear (GY)

DATE: 1964 Oct 21

DOC#: GY025

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Government Inspection Results

DIVISION OF SAFETY AND HYGIENE
THE INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION OF OHIO

October 21, 1964

The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company
Plant 2, Department 225,
Reclaim Department
Akron, Ohio

1) On September 16, 1964 a visit was made to the above named department to check conditions under which employees worked. This visit was made at the request of the Union and the request was concurred in by the Management.

2) Contact was made with Robert Manning, Safety Director; Lee Walker, Division Superintendent; T. J. Hemsley, Chairman of the Union Safety Committee; W. L. Wadworth, Secretary of the Union Safety Committee and H. L. Munford, Vice Chairman of the Union Safety Committee, as well as Roger Corascoulo, Union Representative, Reclaim Department.

3) The company reclaims rubber for use in various products.

4) Flow Sheet:

Raw Material - Scrap Rubber (including fabric)
Grinding (rough)
Screening
Grinding (finish)
Screening
Separating (magnetic)
Digesting (water, oil and steam)
Dissolving and Removing Fabric
Screening (moisture squeezed out)
Squeezing (moisture rolled out)
Vacuuming (tubes)
Vacuuming (tanks; 6 or 7% moisture remains)
Mixing (clay and oil added)
Refining (Rough; these are rolls)
Refining (Finish; these are rolls)
(Rubber Slabs are the product)

5) The Reclaim Department occupies five stories of a separate building. The first floor, which is approximately 250' x 200' x 15' to the low bay, contains seventy-two 30-inch refining mills. There were open windows over the high bay which was part of the first floor, not covered by the five-story building. There was a slight fog or mist in the air on this floor. There was also a slight odor of reclaimed rubber. It should be pointed out that conditions were probably at their best at the time of this visit; that there was good air movement throughout the plant and in the vicinity of the plant. In addition to the windows there were exhaust fans which discharged air outside the building.

6) In visiting all five floors of the plant, it was noticed that many of the exhaust fans discharge their contaminants outside the plant and the contaminated air had an opportunity to re-enter the plant at the same floor and at the floors above.
(6-Continued on page 2)

The exhaust at the mixers where clay was added, was particularly noticeable. It should be mentioned that one employee suggested that the rubber hose connected to the caustic tank could be replaced by a permanent iron pipe and, thereby, reduce the accident hazard. The caustic used is one to two percent solution.

7) Bulletin 203, Specific Safety Requirements of The Industrial Commission of Ohio Relating to All Workshops and Factories, 1002/3 and 1002.4, state as follows:

> "1002.3 DISCHARGE
> "The outlet from every separator or from every collector shall discharge the air contaminants collected by the exhaust system, in such manner that the discharged materials shall not re-enter the working area in injurious concentrations."
>
> "1002.4 LOCATION OF AIR SUPPLY OPENINGS OR INLETS
> "Air supply openings or inlets through which air enters the building or room in which the local exhaust system is in operation shall be isolated from any known source of contamination from outside of the building."

It would be difficult to establish by tests that the threshold limit values for different contaminants had been exceeded. Suffice to say that any reclaim plant is an unpleasant plant in which to work and it would be very difficult to make conditions ideal.

8) It is suggested that conditions in this plant could be enhanced if more stacks were constructed for exhaust fans for different operations. Even fans for general exhaust ventilation should be discharged into stacks.

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