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Minutes (31)

Air Hygiene & Manufacturing Committee
Asbestos Textile Institute
October 3, 1968, Hotel Hershey, Hershey, Pa.

In attendance:

E.E. Walter, Chairman	-	American Asbestos Textile Corp.
L.E. Moody	-	H.K. Porter Company, Inc.
H.M. Willingham	-	Uniroyal, Inc.
R.C. Hunt	-	" "
L.C. Williams	-	Raybestos-Manhattan, Inc.
C.L. Sheckler	-	Johns-Manville Corp.
W.C. Seeds	-	" " "
R.B. Smith	-	Raybestos-Manhattan, Inc.

Absent: K.W. Nelson - American Smelting & Refining Co.
Guests: R.M. Billings - Johns-Manville Corp.

Asbestos Health Seminar: The Seminar on October 2, 1968 was attended by all members of the committee and the topics presented there-in were subsequently discussed at the committee meeting.

Bausch & Lomb Automatic Dust Counter: Mr. J.P. Wronski gave a report on the tests that were conducted at the Raybestos-Manhattan plant in Manheim, Pa. The attempt to find a correlation between the Impinger and the Bausch & Lomb Dust Counter lead to the conclusion that little correlation between the two instruments exists, particularly in regards to large particle size as well as in areas of high dust concentrations. This phenomenon is due to the low trapping velocity of the Bausch & Lomb Dust Counter, which is therefore not to be considered as a replacement for the Impinger. However, the Bausch & Lomb Dust Counter has proven its feasibility as an excellent monitoring device.

Mr. C.L. Sheckler reported on the Membrane-Filter Method and will present a paper on that method at the next meeting.

Dust Control in the Manufacturing Process: Equipment designed for the reduction of dust in the various operations of textile manufacturing was extensively discussed:

1. A bag opening, emptying and storage system, designed by Barkley & Dexter, Inc.
2. A bag dumper, designed by the Wilkra Co.
3. Bag opening and handling devices, designed by the member companies.
4. Various systems of moving blends to cards.
5. Balloonless spinning and twisting.
6. Wet weaving

One member company reported on a balloonless spinning frame based on the woolen system. Balloonless spinning seems to be desirable inasmuch as the absence of a balloon results in a much lower dust count. Woolen type spinning frames operate usually at a considerable higher spindle speed than those now being used in the asbestos textile industry. As a result broken ends will stir up a great deal of dust. It is therefore imperative that the spindle will stop as soon as an end breaks. The manufacturer of the spinning frame has designed an automatic spindle stop motion and is at present experimenting with such a device, which is similar to the one already being used on balloonless twisting frames.

Minutes - Air Hygiene & Manufacturing Committee - continued:

It is hoped that top management will agree to an open exchange of health safety ideas, including designs, plans, photographs and visitors in areas of mutual interest in regards to the reduction or (if ever possible) total elimination of dust in the manufacturing process. The members of the committee agreed to have technical information concerning health safety practices on hand at the next meeting.

Members of the committee stressed the point that dry weaving of asbestos cloth presents one of the greatest health safety problems in the production of asbestos textiles. To achieve the tentative ACGIH threshold limit values of 2MPPCF of air or the alternate, 12 fibres per co-5 microns+, engineering asbestos dust abatement in the dry weaving process is, it appears, an impossible task. Wet weaving throughout the industry, however, will achieve tremendous strides towards accomplishing the standards recommended by the United States Public Health Service and the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists.

It is also essential to produce and manufacture a product that will provide the fabricator and user maximum health safety. Again this can only be accomplished by the process of wet woven cloth.

This material (wet woven cloth) is less dusty and therefore less hazardous.

The Air Hygiene & Manufacturing Committee respectfully urges immediate action by the Board of Governors to coordinate this matter with all ATI standing committees and follow up with specific recommendation for industry-wide action.

Respectfully submitted,

E.H. Walter
Chairman