

Department of Labor

OSHA - Houston

15629 EL PASO ST. SUITE 201
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77058
Reply to the Attention of

PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT

UTX-27

May 13, 1981

Mr. E. B. Pippert
Utex Industries, Inc.
P.O. Box 79227
Houston, TX 77079

Re: Utex Industries, Inc.
M4692-369

Dear Mr. Pippert:

Pursuant to an inspection of your facility on February 4, 1981, the sampling results are as follows:

Asbestos:

8 hr twa

(1) Antonio Fernandez	0.018 Fibers/cc
(2) Robert Johnson	0.004 Fibers/cc
(3) Tom Goedrich	0.009 Fibers/cc
(4) Tim Leihardt	0.033 Fibers/cc
(5) Mike Schmidt	0.015 Fibers/cc

Lead:

(6) Lupe Chapa	None detected
(7) Johnny Chigate	None detected

Methyl Ethyl Ketone:

(8) Robert Johnson	75 ppm
(9) Mike Schmidt	151 ppm
(10) Tom Goedrich	141 ppm
(11) Tim Leihardt	208 ppm
(12) Dale Reirich	246 ppm

No Toluene detected.

Sincerely,

Phillip J. Nessler
Phillip J. Nessler
Acting Area Director

UTEX 000959



UTEX INDUSTRIES, INC.

P.O. BOX 79227 • HOUSTON, TEXAS 77079 • TELEX 79-4137 • 713/467-1000

May 7, 1981

U. S. Department of Labor - OSHA
Clear Lake City Area Office
17629 El Camino Real, Suite 211
Houston, Texas 77058

Attn: Mr. Ben Bare

Subj: Utex Industries, Inc.
M4692-369

Dear Mr. Bare,

On February 4, 1981, your Mr. Richard L. Miller visited our Weimar, Texas manufacturing plant in answer to a complaint. In making your inspection, it was decided that tests should be made in several of our departments where we were handling Asbestos and MEK in our manufacturing operations. On February 12, 1981, Mr. Miller returned and made the necessary tests to determine if we were in compliance.

At a later date, we were verbally advised that the tests conducted showed that we were in compliance and we were promised a written report, along with the test reports, in order to have something for our records. As of this date, we have not received this information, and ask that you please let us have your reply that we were in compliance, along with a copy of the test reports.

Trusting that we may have your reply on this matter, I am

Yours very truly,
UTEX INDUSTRIES, INC.

E. B. Pippert
Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors

ao

cc: Mr. Richard L. Miller

UTEX 000960

UTEX INDUSTRIES, INC.

TO: Charles Slover

DATE: February 16, 1981

FROM: Phil Rouse

SUBJECT: OSHA Inspection

On February 4, 1981, Mr. Richard L. Miller, Certified Industrial Hygienist, OSHA, visited the Weimar Plant due to a complaint that had been registered concerning "fiberglass particles being emitted during phenolic injection press operation" and "employees exposed to the particles by inhalation and skin contact." The copy of the complaint Mr. Miller gave me is attached.

Mr. Miller questioned Mr. Jaetzold (who was in conference with me) and me concerning other possible areas of our operation he should observe for an evaluation of Safety and Health Programs.

Mr. Miller then observed the operation of the injection presses and talked to the employees who had been and were operating these presses.

We accompanied him to the Packing Department to observe our string operation using asbestos and he suggested straightening out the suction hose leading out of the operation.

Also, he went to the Friction House in reference to asbestos, and smelled the MEK. Mr. Miller told us he would come back the following week to take a sampling of MEK and asbestos in the work areas. He stated that even if we were found in non-compliance the fine would probably be less than if we hired a private concern to take the tests.

Mr. Miller also checked the laminating machine where Gloria Guthmann lost part of a finger on December 31, 1980. He observed the operation of the machine and talked to some of the operators.

On February 12, 1981, Mr. Miller returned to the Plant with his sampling equipment and stayed until around 5:00 P.M. taking samples.

He placed sampling equipment on five employees in the Friction House and on three employees in the Packing Department.

We showed him the bulletin we had posted on the Bulletin Boards (see Attached) concerning elimination of fiberglass from future batches of phenolic compounds, and he was very pleased.

UTEX 000961

During the evaluation period, Mr. Miller explained it would be about three weeks before we got the results of his tests. He commended us in the changing of the duct work exhaust from the asbestos work area and felt the asbestos was probably below limits; however, he suggested we might want to look into the possibility of physical exams for the employees working with asbestos in the Packing Department.

He commended the way the Plant looked in general, and the cooperative attitude of all concerned, stating that he would so include this in our file.

Mr. Miller thought we might possibly have an MEK problem as well as the safety of the laminating machine, making drawings and suggestions as to how to make the machine a safer operation as well as listening and complimenting Mr. Jaetzold on his suggestions.

Mr. Miller also suggested putting foot guards over the foot pedals on the laminating machines, and to discontinue letting employees eat in the Packing Department.

PR:lr

Distr: Hank Miser
Elvin Pippert
John Posey
Earl Jaetzold

UTEX 000962