

AMERICAN CONFERENCE
of
GOVERNMENTAL INDUSTRIAL HYGIENISTS



BOBBY F. CHART, Ph.D. Vice Chairman
National Institute for Occupational
Safety & Health
Robert A. Telford Laboratories
4875 Columbia Parkway
Cincinnati, Ohio 45226
Tel: 513-644-2747

DAVID M. TRAYER, Vice Chairman
Tennessee Valley Authority
River Oaks Building
Murray Station, Alabama 36650
Tel: 205-385-4637 Ext. 311

WILLIAM D. KELLEY, Secretary-Treasurer
National Institute for Occupational
Safety & Health
P.O. Box 1937
Cincinnati, Ohio 45201
Tel: 513-644-8467

Mr. R.N. Miller, President
Windsor Minerals Inc.
Windsor, Vermont

Dear Mr. Miller:

This is in reply to your recent request for information
on the year the TLV of 20 mppcf for talc was recommended.

I do not at present have the files of the TLV Committee,
but in checking back on the Transactions of the ACGIH, this value
is given in the 1948 issue. It was probably not much earlier, since
a comprehensive list of TLV's was not prepared before 1945 or 1946.
And during the first few years not too much attention was given to
mineral dusts, with the exception of free silica.

For over 20 years only one type of talc was mentioned.
The 1962 and 1966 Documentations state that the limit refers to
talc in its commercial sense, but is based on studies of talc with
a substantial (10%) tremolite content.

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In either 1969 or 1970 the differentiation between fibrous
and non-fibrous (non-asbestiform) talcs was introduced. The TLV for
the latter type was retained at 20 mppcf; that for fibrous talc was,
and is currently, based on the fiber count. It is recommended that
in some cases it may be advisable to count both dust particles and
fibers.

I might point out that the TLV for nuisance dusts, which
are generally the least harmful of all particulates, is only 30 mppcf.
A few years ago the limit for these dusts was nearly twice as high;
50 mppcf.

provisionally
Until many items in the TLV list were adopted by OSHA
they had no legal standing, although many States used them, either
as guides, or, more rarely, with the force of law.

Very truly yours,
Hervey B. Elkins
Hervey B. Elkins
Chairman, TLV Committee

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303 Mill St.
Belmont, Ma.
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RONALD R. DITZ
Occupational Safety & Health
U.S. Department of Labor
Federal Building
450 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, California 94107

DR. DONALD M. ROOS
Chief, Health Protection Branch
Energy Research & Development Admin.
Washington, D.C. 20545

MRS. KIM STEWART, Manager
Publications Office
P.O. Box 1837
Cincinnati, Ohio 45201
Tel: 513-827-0312

303 Mill St.
Belmont, Ma.

March 28, 1977

