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CHEMICALS AND PLASTICS • P. O. BOX 8361, SOUTH CHARLESTON, WEST VIRGINIA 25303

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Date November 9, 1979

Originating Dept. Technical Center IH/EP

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Subject Cutting Asbestos Sheet Products on DoAll Saw, Bldg. 704 Machine Shop

PROJECT

Survey for asbestos exposure of employee sawing transite boards on DoAll saw and recommend standard procedures for this operation which will protect against adverse exposure to asbestos.

DATE OF SURVEY

October 30, 1979

SUMMARY

Exposure to asbestos of machinist cutting flat asbestos sheets using the recommended procedures for the DoAll saw was well below the standard of 2 fibers/cc.

An area sample approximately six feet from the saw was < 0.1 fibers/cc.

DISCUSSION

Some engineering changes were made in the DoAll saws dust collection system in order to improve the efficiency for capture of asbestos dust. Then a number of cuts were made in asbestos containing transite board during which time the operator's breathing air and the ambient air were sampled for asbestos. Total operating time was eighteen minutes.

Analysis of the samples collected exhibited very little asbestos dust. Normal saw usage would be less than ten minutes. Large asbestos jobs would be contracted out to companies with facilities to cut the material wet.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The practices followed during the experimental cutting period are recommended, these include:

1. Use No. 4 pitch blade.
2. Operate saw at 115 fpm.
3. Valve dust collector into DoAll saw only.
4. Operator should wear approved asbestos dust respirator and gloves.
5. Clean up should be accomplished with a vacuum cleaner or treated with water before wiping up.

Barricading and posting will not be necessary due to the low values found.

RESULTS

Location	Personnel	Sampling Time-Min.	Exposure Fibers/cc>5 μm
704 Shop	B.L. Schneider	18	0.1
704 Shop	DoAll Saw	18	<0.1

REFERENCES

Volume 38C-29X4-R1a Asbestos, Dust Determination By Membrane Filter Techniques Using Phase Contrast Microscopy

REPORT PREPARED BY

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