

FILE NAME: Kent (KNT)

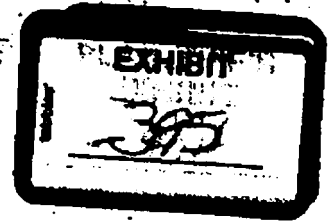
DATE: 1954 Jan

DOC#: KNT011

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Memo & Inspection Report RE H. & V.
Specialties Co., West Groton

3-170

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January 29, 1954



To: Mr. Kelly
From: Dr. Elkins
Subject: H & V Specialties Co., West Groton

Enclosed are three copies of a report by our engineers, Mr. Elise Compton and Mr. Harold Hawley, on their visit to the above establishment on January 27.

As a rule we do not recommend recirculating air from a dust collector which has been used to collect dust that may be considered toxic, such as asbestos, silica or lead. However, if the dust collector is efficient, and is properly maintained, such a system does not necessarily constitute a hazard.

It is because of the fact that adequate maintenance of the system is rarely carried out, that we prefer the air to be exhausted outdoors.

In the case of this plant, the most practical thing to do would appear to be to go along with the system of recirculation of air provided the collector is fitted with a suitable warning device to be activated in case of failure of the filter, provided the system is properly maintained.

Inasmuch as this was a matter initiated by your division, no copy of the report is being sent by us to the employer.

Enc.
HEE:RSM

3 cts
c/mj

January 28, 1954

To: Dr. Elkins
From: Mr. Compton and Mr. Ravley
Subject: H & V Specialties Company, West Groton
Person
Inter-
viewed: Mr. F. O'Malley, Superintendent
Date of
visit: January 27, 1954

A follow-up visit was made to this plant to check on our previously submitted recommendations relative to the control of asbestos dust at the picking and carding operations.

Since our previous visit a Sprickless Dust Collector, Model S, Size 12 32 132, manufactured by the Turner and Hayes Company, has been installed. The unit is presently used to exhaust five wool carding machines. It is anticipated that a primary and secondary picker located in the basement will be tied in with the system as well as a condenser unit to trap all waste material from the carding operation. The dust collector is located in close proximity to the building which houses the carding units. Air from the collector will be again filtered by a space filter and recirculated back to the Carding Room.

According to Mr. O'Malley future plans call for a pneumatic conveying system from the pickers to two storage bins located at the end of the Carding Room. This double bin arrangement will be constructed airtight and provided with a directional damper so that the discharge from the picker can be collected in the bin which is not being unloaded, thus preventing dust dispersion while the storage bin doors are open. Adequate provision will be made for exhaust air from these bins to be discharged to the outside atmosphere. The present maintenance schedule provides for the blowing down of all overhead beams, walls, and machinery once weekly. Two men work approximately one hour while the plant is closed on this cleaning process, and the men are required to wear approved respirators (MSA Dustloc #55, RL-2147).

After the dust has been blown from the overhead beams and trusses, the dust is allowed to settle. The settled dust is then dry swept by the two employees. These men are required to wear approved respirators during this sweeping operation.

It was pointed out to Mr. O'Malley that it is not our policy to allow the recirculation of air containing a toxic dust such as asbestos. However, since the heat loss problem in this case would be somewhat substantial, it was agreed that recirculation of air would be permitted if proper precautions against bag breakage and collector

failure were taken.

In view of these facts the following recommendations are being submitted:

1. A warning device should be installed on the collector discharge which would warn the employees in the event of bag breakage or collector failure. This can be accomplished by installing a small filter in the discharge for the collector which would fill up rapidly in the event of bag breakage or filter failure and actuate a warning device or shut down the blower.

2. Consideration should be given to a change in operation involving the closed pneumatic conveying of the material from the picking-blending operation to storage bins on the second floor.

3. A medical control program should be instituted. Each employee exposed to asbestos dust should be given a physical examination, including a chest X-ray as soon as practicable. This program should be repeated annually.

The change in plan for local exhaust at the picking operation and the possibility of a pneumatic conveying system from the pickers to the storage bins will eliminate the necessity for our previous recommendation involving the installation of a twenty-four-inch fan in the window near the picker machine. When local exhaust is provided for this unit, the window fan is not deemed necessary.

ENC/jmh/elc

Supplementary

A revisit is suggested in three months.