



PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT

FD-1924

Inter Office

Personnel and Organization Staff

Mr. Frank Serbus
Saline Plant

April 19, 1977

cc K. Lee

Subject: Talc Dust Exposures --- Permissible Occupational Exposure Limits

This memo will clarify issues regarding permissible occupational exposures to talc dust which is of respirable size dimensions. Previous industrial hygiene studies done at the Saline Plant erroneously classified asbestos-free talc as a nuisance dust. We regret this error on our part, but wish to emphasize that talcosis -- the dust disease of the lungs resulting from excessive exposures to respirable talc -- is chronic in nature, that is, the length of exposure to result in lung scarring and fibrosis normally is many years of almost daily exposures to high dust levels. To reemphasize, asbestos-contaminated talc can present occupational hazards, but asbestos-free talc should not be regarded as a benign material. It should be noted that the quality of talc used at Saline is of the highest quality we have analyzed at all Ford plants; it is essentially asbestos-free.

The permissible exposure limit, or threshold limit value, for asbestos-free talc is 20 mppcf (millions of particles per cubic foot of breathing zone air). This is calculated as an 8-hour time-weighted average exposure to dust. As respirable dust, this closely approximates our recommended exposure level of 3 mg/M³ (milligrams of dust per cubic meter of breathing zone air), not 15 mg/M³ recommended for nuisance dust.

Photocopies of pertinent articles are attached which may be of interest in describing talc dust exposure hazards.

Roger L. Wabek
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