

FILE NAME: Goodyear (GY)

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DIVISION OF SAFETY AND HYGIENE
THE INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION OF OHIO

October 27, 1964

The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co.
245-A CHEMICAL PLANT
Akron, Ohio

1) On September 16, 1964 a visit was made to the above named company to check on potential accident hazards from the operation of this plant. The request was made by the Union and concurred in by the Management.

2) Contact was made with: Robert Manning, Safety Director; Max Humphrey, General Foreman; W. W. Fruster, Department Foreman; James Sexton, Chemical Engineer; T. J. Hensley, Chairman, Union Safety Committee; H. L. Mumford, Vice Chairman, Union Safety Committee; W. L. Wedworth, Secretary, Union Safety Committee; Robert Miller, Union Shift Representative; Jack Miccochero, Union Shift Representative, and Joe Knopp, Operator.

3) The company produces mercaptobenzothiozol (captex) which is a rubber accelerator.

4) The raw materials that go into the process are carbon disulfide, aniline and elemental sulphur. These materials are pumped into autoclaves at 1,000 pounds per square inch pressure and maintained at approximately 250°C. until the reaction is complete. The process is company-secret so it is not fully described in this report. Heat has to be supplied by burners during parts of the process and at other times the reaction is exothermic and heat has to be removed by water coils. The final product is discharged in water where it is pelletized on contact.

5) About one year ago the company put in an automatic discharge control valve to test the effectiveness of that valve. They then proceeded to install a number of safety devices and about June of this year, one employee per shift was eliminated. Among the safety devices installed were an automatic detector to tell whether the flame was going or not, automatic recording devices with charts to indicate to the pump operator what was happening in the system, valves and other devices. They are going to install alarms, both audible and visible, in order to keep the operator informed. In addition, the operator has a telephone and another system to advise plant personnel if something has gone wrong. He can call upon two or more experienced persons to assist him in case of trouble. They have attempted to make the operation "failsafe." When material stops going into the equipment, the reaction stops.

6) The threshold limit values on the materials used is as follows:

Aniline 5 ppm
Carbon Disulfide 20 ppm

7) It should be pointed out that every six months there will be a complete check, including backflow test on all equipment. It should also be pointed out that the duties of the operators were studied. Admittedly, an operator has a greater burden, a greater amount of physical work to do, but the question is safety - not workload.

46

The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co.
245-A CHEMICAL BLDG.
10/27/64 (2)

8) It would appear that it is outside the jurisdiction of The Industrial Commission to state how many employees should be employed on a particular job. It would be within the jurisdiction of The Industrial Commission to recommend safety devices. The company appears to be putting in all the safety devices they can think of and welcome additional suggestions from employees and others. In fact, the recommendation relative to the flame detector was a suggestion of an employee.

9) No recommendations are made at this time.

Dewitt Haffner,
Assistant Chief,
Engineering and Hygiene.

DH:mw