

Mr. G. B. Blaisdell

August 25, 1939

A. M. George

Metropolitan Life Insurance Company
Survey of Lancaster Floor Division

Dear George:

Since sending you your copy of the Survey of the Lancaster Floor Division made by the Industrial Health Section of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, I have thought it advisable to comment more fully to you on this report.

On Page 7 of this report you will read the following:

The toxicities of lead, manganese, benzol, and naphtha were discussed in the previous reports. There are still hazards from the use of these substances. The concentrations of benzol and naphtha are very high, many times the maximum allowable concentrations.

On Page 6 are shown the concentrations of benzol and naphtha which are indeed very high. I am definitely recommending that benzol be eliminated from use in the factory and am also recommending wherever solvents are used in production that checks be made by the doctor to determine whether the exposed persons are suffering from exposure to these fumes. It must be remembered that all of the solvents have bad effects on persons exposed to high concentrations and every effort should be made to reduce the concentrations to a minimum.

Through a reference to the data sheet on chemical analyses, it will be found that we are definitely high in lead content in a number of operations. If you will refer to the last column showing the amount of lead absorbed in an 8-hour day, you will note that many of the figures are above 2 milligrams per cubic meter, 8-hour day. Although there is no definite point which can be stated as being absolutely safe in lead absorption, a general figure is given by leading authorities that the amount should not exceed 2 milligrams per cubic meter, 8-hour day, and in one industry particularly mentioned by the Metropolitan they state there was an agreement that the lead content should be below 1.5 milligrams per cubic meter, 8-hour day. I should recommend in this connection a doctor's examination of those individuals who are exposed to the lead hazards particularly those fellows who are weighing lead pigments and litharge so as to catch any signs of lead poisoning before serious cases develop. It might also be wise to consider the use of lead dust respirators wherever dangerous conditions exist. I do believe very definitely that the men exposed to this operation should be examined periodically by a physician and a report made of any cases where there is evidence of any trouble whatsoever.

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Mr. G. B. Blaisdell

August 23, 1938

A. M. George

The above statements should apply to hazards in the use of manganese.

On the data sheets showing the dust counts, Sample No. 6, Building 67-B, Second Floor, Paint and Backing Mix, a dust count of 10 million particles less than 10 microns is shown per cubic foot. Although this condition is not normally considered bad, Mr. P. H. Yeomans believes by the installation of a portable hood which will cost less than \$100. this condition can be considerably improved. I recommend that the sum necessary to cover this addition be placed in the 1940 budget on health hazards.

Sample No. 7 appears to be quite satisfactory.

Sample No. 8, Building 67-F, shows a dust count of 74 million. This is quite high and a project should be set up to greatly reduce the dust count on this operation.

Samples Nos. 11, 12, 15, 16, and 19 all refer to our Cork Mill where there is a mixture of cork dust and on some floors silica dust as well. Some of these counts are exceedingly high and projects should be set up to improve these conditions.

Samples Nos. 17, 20, and 23 do not appear to be very bad. These dust counts were taken before the exhaust system was in operation in the Mixing Building and the dust counts should be greatly improved since this exhaust system is now in operation and should be comparable to the fine conditions noted under Samples Nos. 24, 26, 27, 28, 29, and 30.

Samples Nos. 35, 38, 39, and 40 were taken before the rotary exhaust system was in operation and I believe that the dust counts in general should be in as good a condition as those in the Inlaid Department since the exhaust system in the Rotary Department has been installed.

Sample No. 54 seems quite satisfactory as do Samples Nos. 47, 49, and 58.

Sample No. 55, Paste Making Department, Building 406, Second Floor—although in a remarkable condition over the existing condition in 1935, it still is very bad from the standpoint of dust counts. A project should be set up to improve this condition.

Sample No. 56 is quite high in dust counts and this is apparently due to the fact that the exhaust fan is not operating efficiently. The

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August 23, 1939

A. M. George

equipment, of course, should be put in condition.

Samples Nos. 9, 18-A, and 59 appear to be quite satisfactory.

Sample No. 18, Building 44, 5th Floor, between Hoppers 11 and 12, appears bad on this report, but the new exhaust was applied since this dust count was taken. Consequently, I do not think any other work is required except to check to see to it that the equipment is in proper working condition.

Samples Nos. 71, 72, and 73 appear to be satisfactory in the first two cases, but Sample No. 73 for asbestos dust should be reduced for safety purposes.

Sample No. 74—it seems likely that improvement can be made to this department without the expenditure of a great deal of money and I understand that we are now sanding Press Blankets in this department which occasionally makes considerable dust. I do not know whether this operation was being conducted during the time this dust count was taken. If not, I should recommend that a project be set up to take care of this dust.

Very truly yours,

ANG:CMF

Copy to Mr. E. J. Kessler

BC: Mr. A. S. Keen
Mr. P. H. Yeomans
Mr. E. R. Clark
Mr. H. R. Woerner
Mr. P. H. Pennell
Mr. E. Claxton
Mr. J. J. Evans, Jr.
Mr. S. E. Dyke)
Mr. H. P. Smith, Jr.)
Dr. C. P. Stahr

34. D - Inlet - Hood flanges
on D number

31 - Exhaust was not in operation
at time of count.

67-E. Dryer Pantry - Change to 42
made in hood
on D number

44 - Exhaust was not in
operation at time of count

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

TO Mr. G. B. Blaisdell

DATE August 23, 1939

FROM A. M. George

SUBJECT Metropolitan Life Insurance Company
Survey of Lancaster Floor Division

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Mr. Kessler, will you please follow this with Armon Keen and be sure the Capital and equipment required is in the 1940 report.

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

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TO Mr. G. B. Blaisdell

DATE August 23, 1939

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AMG:OMP

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