FILE NAME: Foseco (FOS)

DATE: 1974 July 24

DOC#: FOS037

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Memo

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FOSECO, INC.

INTER-COMPANY AND INTER-DEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

TO: Production Supt.
All Supervisors

FROM: Plant Safety Committee

DATE: July 24, 1974

SUBJECT: Asbestos Handling

In view of the dangers inherent in handling asbestos in our plant, and OSHA's recent interest in our employees safety in this respect, we should like to remind supervisors of their responsibilities in training new employees, and supervising asbestos handling operations.

1. All new employees must be instructed as to the dangers of breathing air borne asbestos fibre and the locations in the plant where this hazard is present.

   a) Basically, inhaling asbestos fibres of greater than five micron size can, at a later date, cause lung cancer. Once in the lungs, the fibres can be retained and may affect the lungs many years later. Hence, breathing heavily laden air occassionally or lightly contaminated air continuously are equally dangerous. No effects will be noticed by an affected person until the fibres cause malignant tumors, at which point the individual is unlikely to be cured.

   b) The hazard of air born asbestos is present in the batching area of the pulping mezzanine, at the pulpers themselves during charging and at the refinishing stage of packaging. The danger also exists for those employees sweeping or vacuuming the floors in these areas. The refinishing operations giving rise to airborne fibres are: cutting grooves in one piece tops, dressing pallets of rings and cleaning "Super G" boards.

2. New employees or employees being moved to a hazardous area must be instructed in correct procedures. These procedures must be supervised to assure continued compliance. Procedures to be observed are:

   a) All employees must wear respirators when in hazardous areas. New respirators will be handed our personally to each employee located in these areas at the start of each shift.

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b) Asbestos bags must not be broken until they are under the extraction hood of the asbestos bin. When the bin is being charged, the charging doors must be closed.

c) Transfer of asbestos from the bin to the weigh drum will be carried out with a shovel only. The material will not be transferred by hand.

d) Cooling fans will be placed in such locations as to assist the dust extraction hoods in their job, or to leave them unaffected. They must not blow across the front of a weigh station or through it.

e) Drums must be dumped into pulpers slowly to give the dust collection equipment time to function. Dumping drums too fast gives rise to excessive dust and spillage.

f) The dust collector must be functioning whenever mixing or handling operations are taking place. The unit must be shaken down at each break, lunch, and shift change.

g) Pulpers which are not being used should have their doors closed to increase the dust extraction in other areas.

h) Scrap finished products must be disposed of in the compactor.

i) Asbestos spillage, as from bag breakage and dust resulting from refinishing operations will be cleaned up as quickly as possible either by vacuuming or by wetting down prior to sweeping and shovelling.

j) Employees exposed to asbestos during their shift must change their external clothing before leaving the plant. Gloves and respirators will be collected by supervisors for disposal through the compactor.

k) Employees are recommended to use the shower facilities provided and shower at the end of their shift.

3. All employees are given an X-ray and medical prior to hiring. In future, there will be an annual X-ray and medical check-up and employees should be informed of this.

D. C. B.

D. C. Sanks
Plant Safety Committee

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