FILE NAME: Kentile (KEN)

DATE: 1970 June 15

DOC#: KEN003

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Interim Report - Dust Measurements - Asbestos Fibre Dust Determinations



6

KENTILE FLOORS, INC.
Brooklyn, New York

Dust Measurements - Interim Report

Asbestos Fibre Dust Determinations

Submitted by
R. A. Williams
Sr. Industrial Hygienist

On the basis of what we have learned thus far, we are still of the opinion that the exposure at all operations involving mixed dusts should be controlled by meeting the currently established TLV for asbestos. It is significant to note in this regard the information contained in the Supplemental Documentation of Threshold Limit Values for Asbestos (copy enclosed), as well as the new recommended change listed in the Notice of Intended Changes for 1970 (copy also enclosed). In this new listing, the TLV for asbestos is lower yet, i.e., "5 fibres/ml greater than 5 microns in length with 10 fibres/ml ceiling of stipulated duration and frequency and as measured by specified procedure."

We trust that this brief reporting will bring you up to date with respect to our efforts aimed at determining the asbestos content of the mixed dust exposure in your operations. We intend to complete this work just as soon as practically possible; and when sufficient information is available, our recommendations for control practices will be made.

R. A. Williams

R. A. Williams
Sr. Industrial Hygienist
Loss Prevention Department

dl - 6/15/70
Encs.

KENTILE FLOORS, INC.
Brooklyn, New York

Dust Measurements - Interim Report

Asbestos Fibre Dust Determinations

Several months ago, as part of our endeavor to provide information on the degree of asbestos dust exposures related to handling of mixed dust at several locations in the Brooklyn plant, 12 membrane filter dust samples were collected and sent to our Hopkinton laboratory for analysis. This work was initiated in December 1969.

Several months have elapsed since this study was initiated. Although preliminary findings were obtained and discussed with Mr. Gentile, no formal reporting of these results was made since it was felt at the time that the information obtained was not sufficiently definitive to allow sound scientific judgment to be made with respect to the exact nature of the exposure as far as the present TLV or proposed TLV for asbestos fibres was concerned. Nor did we believe that the data was sufficiently sound to permit reaching conclusions concerned with the establishing of a standard for Kentile operations.

So that you might have the benefit of these preliminary findings, it can be reported that out of 12 membrane filter paper samples collected, concentrations of asbestos fibres ranged from 4 to 8 fibres greater than 5 microns in length per milliliter of air. These concentrations were arrived at by counting sections of the filter papers at 430 diameter magnification without the benefit of phase contrast illumination.

We intend to re-evaluate these samples with the phase contrast microscope and phase contrast lighting to determine if these preliminary findings are above or below the suggested TLV of 12 fibres/ml greater than 5 microns in length. Our laboratory at the present time has this equipment on order; and as soon as it is operative, these determinations will be completed. In the meantime, we are investigating the possibility of other methods to assist us with these determinations.

We hope in the next several weeks to be in a better position to offer comment on the results of this sampling.

Continued -

Retest and obtaining phase contrast - results down to 1/10 M