

FILE NAME: Goodyear (GY)

DATE: 1959 July 28

DOC#: GY017

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Government Inspection Results

July 28, 1959

Medical Department
Bureau of Workmen's Compensation
Columbus, Ohio

Re: O. D. 6964-22
Ralph T. Foy, deceased.

Gentlemen:

On July 23, 1959, a visit was made to The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company, Akron, Ohio to check conditions under which the above named decedent had worked. The company manufactures rubber tires and other rubber products.

The decedent was employed by this company from June 26, 1944 to September 26, 1958. He worked as a neutralizer operator during the following periods:

3/20/45 to 8/21/45	Plant No. 1.
3/10/47 to 6/13/49	" " "
9/26/49 to 6/24/53	" " "
8/11/53 to 9/26/58	Plant C.

During the rest of his employment with this company, the decedent was on jobs where he handled raw rubber or finished rubber products, such as tires. As a neutralizer operator, the decedent worked on Pliofilm production. In the manufacture of this product, natural and synthetic rubbers are dissolved in benzene. Hydrogen chloride gas is bubbled through the solution, forming a rubber hydrochloride. After this reaction, the excess hydrogen chloride is neutralized with soda ash (sodium carbonate). Excess soda ash is then removed by filtration. The rubber hydrochloride is dissolved in water and the benzene is stripped off. The rubber hydrochloride solution or slurry is then fed to a casting machine where the film is formed and dried.

The materials used in this process are natural and synthetic rubbers, benzene, hydrogen chloride and soda ash. Soda ash is the only material requiring manual handling. The maximum that the decedent would have dumped would have been three (3) bags per shift.

There was some exposure to benzene vapors in the neutralizing area. Readings taken by the company from April 1958 to April 1959 have shown the concentration to average about 25 to 35 ppm. The maximum reading obtained during this period was about 50 ppm of benzene. There would also have been some exposure to benzene vapors while changing the filter used to remove excess soda ash. A respirator was provided for use whenever the filter required changing.

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Re: O. D. 696b-22
Ralph T. Foy, deceased.

The American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists has adopted
threshold limit value of 25 ppm for benzene for an eight-hour daily exposure.

Very truly yours,

DONALD W. RUMSEY
Industrial Hygienist

DWR:acc

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