

FILE NAME: Warren Pumps (WAR)

DATE: 1983 June 3

DOC#: WAR006

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Letter

LIBERTY MUTUAL



472 Lincoln Street, Worcester, Massachusetts 01605 • Tel. (617) 852-3000

June 3, 1983

Mr. Frank Bugbee, Industrial Relations Manager
WARREN PUMPS/DIV. OF ROUDAILLE INDUSTRIES
Bridges Avenue
Warren, Mass. 01083

Dear Mr. Bugbee:

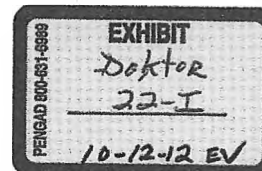
On May 27, 1983 we discussed several points relating to employee safety and accident prevention at Warren Pumps.

During our discussion, we reviewed several accidents which occurred to Warren employees involved in tightening chucks on the lathes. A major loss source has been identified where employees have been manually tightening these chucks with a T-type instrument, and reaching over the chip trays, thereby receiving a low back injury. Several ideas were discussed with Mr. Francis Smith at this meeting, and they are as follows:

1. Employees have been excessively tightening these chucks and thereby receiving back strains due to the awkward position of the tightening tool.
2. The excessive tightening of the chucks causes the chucks to need replacing much faster than expected, thereby increasing maintenance downtime and equipment costs.
3. This over-tightening of the chucks causes the piece being machined to become warped or damaged, thereby increasing the cost per unit and the amount of waste.

At our meeting on June 1st, I will be discussing these points with members of your Safety Committee and we can discuss a plan of action for control of the loss source at that time.

At the Safety Committee meeting, a number of other points will be discussed regarding the increasing cost of Workers' Compensation for industry in general. Comparisons with other machine operations in the Worcester area relating to injuries and accident costs, and the relationship of increasing insurance costs and the competitive position of Warren Pumps in the marketplace will also be discussed.



LIBERTY MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY • LIBERTY MUTUAL FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY • LIBERTY LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY OF BOSTON
HOME OFFICE: BOSTON

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYERS

WP 0443627

- 2 -

I recently received a letter from Mr. Charles Nordhausen, Manager, Application Engineering in which he asked a number of questions concerning the use of Asbestos in the packing and gasket material used in the pumps. I reviewed this item with members of our Industrial Hygiene and Products Liability staff and the results were as follows:

Any area where food or drinking water would come in contact with these type gaskets should be reviewed and this type gasket eliminated.

All containers, when being shipped to customer's locations, should be labeled with instructions dealing with the use of Asbestos and the possible effects of Asbestos if the dust is inhaled. Cartons and boxes should be vacuumed if the gaskets are generating any dust while they are being handled or shipped.

If possible, eliminate the use of Asbestos in the packing and gasket materials and research the use of possible replacement products not incorporating asbestos.

In using asbestos gaskets, Warren Pumps is placing these pumps in the chain of commerce and may be included in asbestosis claims based on the use of this substance in the packing and gasket materials. This type exposure is especially prevalent in confined space hazards in shipyards and related industries, especially where maintenance personnel must change gaskets or other items while in limited work space areas.

I have enclosed a copy of an Environmental Health Memo concerning Asbestos and the possible health effects to workers and the public.

Sincerely,

Matthew J. Allen
Matthew J. Allen

Senior Loss Prevention Representative

MJA:cb

Enclosures

1to: Mr. Frank Standish

Mr. G.J. Pomeroy

Mr. R.W. Greene

Mr. C.W. Nordhausen ✓

WP 0443628