PLAINTIFF'S
EXHIBIT
BRK-285

our brand of safety

March 22, 1983

4400 Dixie Hy.?
Fairfield 45014

Legal Section
Industrial Commission of Ohio
246 N. High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Attention: Judy Spencer

OD #18906-22
Randall Messer
Fisher Body Division GMC
Hamilton, Ohio 45012

Dear Ms. Spencer:

Visits were made to Fisher Body Division GMC in Hamilton, Ohio on January 18 and 21, 1983 in order to investigate the conditions under which the claimant, Randall Messer, worked.

The claimant was hired on August 2, 1976 as a production press helper in the Metal Assembly Department. In August of 1977 he transferred into a pipe fitter trainee program. From August 1977 until July 1981 at which time he transferred to his present position of box car loader. The claimant actually worked off and on between metal assembly and pipe fitter trainee. According to company representatives Mr. Messer did not work in any one location in the Metal Assembly Department. As a helper he would have been required to work where he was needed. A complete copy of his work history with the company is included for review.

The Metal Assembly Department (specifically the door assembly line) is an automated production line. The door assembly consists of two separate lines (inner and outer door panels) that eventually join at the "marriage station" and are welded. Each line consists of a conveyor system. The inner door panel travels through an open paint booth where a zinc primer is applied along two seams while the outer door panel goes through a similar booth where a sound deadener is applied to about 3 square feet of the panel. Each booth has a local exhaust ventilation system which removes any overspray. Thus each booth is kept under negative pressure. However, the primer and deadener are not completely dry before exiting the booths. As a result some fume or odor may be detectable in the general area.

The solvent components of the zinc primer include naphtha, toluene and some xylene. The volatile component of the sound deadener is primarily naphtha. Since there is local exhaust ventilation present at the points of application, the airborne level of these solvents would be expected to remain well within established occupational exposure limits.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) conducted an investigation at Fisher Body's Hamilton plant between May 3rd and June 28, 1978. Air samples were collected on the door line on May 4, 1978. The results are included with this report.

The OSHA air sampling results indicate that the level of naphtha, which is the primary volatile component in both the paint primer and deadener, was below 20% of the Permissible Exposure Limit (PEL) in all four of the samples collected along the door line.

In addition to the solvent vapor exposure, the file mentions that the claimant may have been exposed to dust as well. Due to the nature of this particular operation it would be extremely difficult to consider it dusty at any time. The file also indicates that fumes would come back into the claimant's face while he was working approximately 10 feet from the booth in which the primer was applied. As long as the exhaust ventilation system was operating properly and cross drafts were negligible air would be drawn into the booth and exhausted.

The symptom associated with excessive exposure to petroleum naphtha, toluene and xylene is central nervous system depression. Exposed personnel may experience headaches, nausea, dizziness and fatigue.

In summary the claimant, Randall Messer, alleges that his work environment caused the development of chronic bronchitis. Air monitoring performed along the door assembly line in conjunction with visual observations of the work area appear to indicate that high levels of solvent vapors are not the norm. In addition, the work area is relatively dust free. The company feels that the claimant had this condition prior tc the beginning of his employment and that it may be attributable to his history of smoking. Barring the factor of individual susceptibility, the literature does not support the existence of a casual relationship at low levels of exposure.

Respectfully submitted,

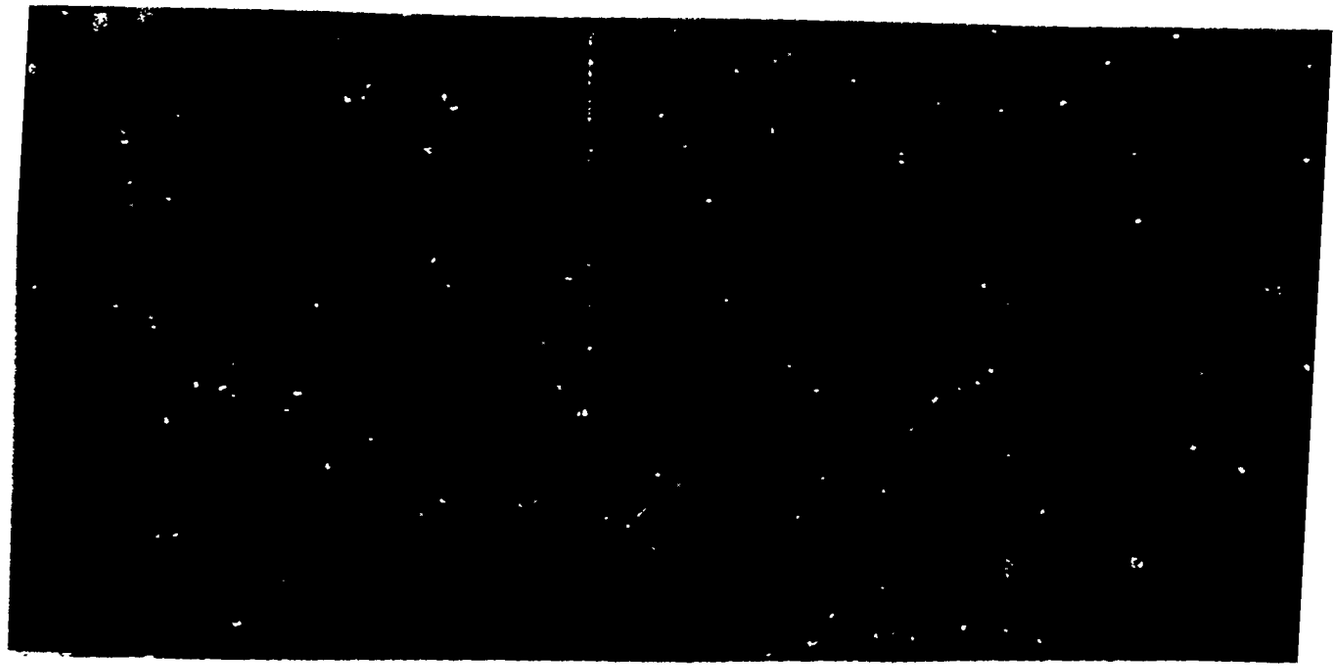
Mark Ashworth
Industrial Hygienist

MA/rr

Attachments:

1) OSHA air sampling results
2) Claimant's work history at Fisher Body Division GMC

0000 0385



CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTI

I certify that the microphotographics on this roll of film or microfiche are true and accurat
ductions of records generated by or received by the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation, an
of the State of Ohio, as required by Ohio Revised Code Section 4123.52 and Section 9.01 which
optimum protection from hazards of accidental destruction of records.

It is further certified that the photographic processes used for microfilming the above recor
accomplished in a manner and on microfilm which meets the requirements of the National Bu
Standards for permanent photographic copy.

William D. Ka
Supervisor, Microfilming Unit

Date Filmed: 1-3-85

By: John Frey
(Camera Operator)

BWC-6226 (11/82)
RS-25

