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RE-INSPECTION REPORT

SAFETY AND INDUSTRIAL HEALTH

DEFOE SHIPBUILDING CO., BAY CITY, MICHIGAN

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January 20, 21, 1944

Previous Inspection: July 27, 28, 1943

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RECOMMENDATIONS

27. Emphasis on the educating of employees to report to first-aid all injuries, however slight, is recommended.

28. The ventilation arrangement provided for the welding booth of the sheet metal shop should be altered so as to operate effectively. (See "Ventilation" in the body of this report.)

29. A Bureau of Mines-Approved type A respirator should be provided for use by the worker cutting Amosite batts. A study of means to control dust by exhaust ventilation should be undertaken if the operation is to be continuous and of long duration.

30. Workers cutting cable insulation in the old boat-house should follow measures for the prevention of chlorosis outlined in Health and Safety Bulletin No. 6.

31. Washing facilities for yard employees should be provided.

32. Prohibit men from riding running boards of trucks while in motion.

33. Caution workers of tripping and falling hazards caused by workers running through yard at checking out time

Ventilation

The ventilation system for ships under construction, as described in previous reports, is good. However, there are still a few metal fume cases, and observation revealed that there are still some welders who fail to use properly the flexible metal exhaust tubes in removing welding fumes during below deck welding operations. The sound-slide training film, "Welders - To Your Health," has been shown to supervisors on the night shift but has not yet been seen by day supervisors.

It was noted that the ventilation system provided for the welding booth in the sheet metal shop is not removing fumes effectively. The large hood attached to one exhaust line of the Sawyer blower has a low face velocity. A check of the blower and the use of the local exhaust tubing without the hood and with the opening of the exhaust line within 6 to 8 inches of the arc is recommended.

Amosite Cutting

One woman, a sub-contractor employee, is engaged in cutting batts of Amosite insulating material in a small shed.

The operation began a few months ago. The accumulation of dust on rafters and wires as well as conspicuous quantities of dust floating in the air of the room point to dangerous dust [illegible].

Amosite contains a considerable percentage of asbestos and studies have shown that dust from it, if breathed in sufficient quantity for a prolonged period, are capable of causing the disabling occupational disease, asbestosis, which is similar in its effects to silicosis.

Respiratory protection for the cutter, in the form of a Bureau of Mines-Approved Type A respirator, should be provided and used immediately. A study should be made of the practicability of controlling the dust by exhaust ventilation.

Cable Insulation Remover

Two men in the old boat-house feed electrical cable into a cutting machine which cuts through the insulation to the core of the cable. All types of cable are handled. The heat generated in cutting is sufficient to produce fumes from the cable and the odor is quite pronounced. Neither man is exposed directly to the rising fumes which quickly dissipate into the air of the space