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Mr. A. A. Kirby, Chief, Port Health, October 2, 1944

B-13-A GUIDE FOR PREVENTION OF INDUSTRIAL DISEASE IN SHIPYARDS
13.1; 13.2 (a) and (b) - Complied with

13.2 (c) Welding Practice

The Management is endeavoring to enforce the rule relative to welders wearing anti flash goggles which are furnished to welders, however, extreme difficulty has been experienced in having the welders wear them. Trainee welders are being educated to wear these anti-flash goggles at the Welding Schools and the Yard will continue their efforts to enforce this rule with all welders throughout the Yard in general.

13.3 Lead Poisoning

All painters engaged in spraying red lead paint wear approved fume respirators. Very little spraying of red lead paint is done prior to welding, however, where it is found necessary to perform welding on red lead painted surfaces, the worker wears an approved metal fume respirators. In addition thirty (30) new Coppus Blowers have been delivered and are in use to provide the necessary ventilation where necessary.

Relative to the tank for cleaning spray painting tanks and equipment by use of an Oakite bath; all personnel using this tank are equipped with adequate protection covering to prevent burns. Additional windows on each end of this building have been installed with provided sufficient circulation of air.

13.4 Solvent Vapors

Greater efforts are now being exercised by the Paint Department to make all painters wear respirators where necessary.

13.5 Zinc Fume Fever (Zinc Chills or Shakes)

All welders working on galvanized pipe regardless of location are furnished respirators. Recommended exhaust ventilation in the Pipe Shop and Copper Shop is now under consideration, and will be corrected in the immediate future. Additional Coppus Blowers have been ordered, which will correct this condition on board ship.

13.6 Fiberglass

Minimum requirements have been met

13.7 Asbestos

See 3-6

Minimum requirements are being met

13.8 Silicosis

No requirements to meet.

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Mr. A. A. Sirry, Chief

South Portland, Maine
October 2, 1944

- 13.9 Dermatitis
Medical Department advises no recurrence of dermatitis since the use of a pine oil compound formerly used in toilets has been discontinued.

M-14-VENTILATION STANDARDS

The recommendations relative to acquiring additional ventilation equipment has been met as set forth under M-13.3 above.

Distribution of the ventilation crews in the East and West Areas have been rearranged on a basis which is believed to meet the requirements. Also a new shop has been provided where work on all blower equipment is promptly carried out.

The sound slide film "Welders - to your Health" is now shown to all welders in the Yard.

The suggested short length of flexible exhaust tubing to be attached to the suction end of the system in the individual booths at the Welders Training School is now being tried out.

WELDING

Articles relative to welding conditions are carried in the Yard Paper, also I understand that Dr. P. Drinker and Lt. Commander Walter Fleisher will address the Medical Association in Portland, Maine, during the month of November in an attempt to explode the general impression that welding is injurious to the workers health.

We are attaching herewith three (3) copies of a report from the New England Shipbuilding Corporation prepared by Palmer E. Tubbs, Safety Director, in reply to the above Industrial Health Survey Report.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Willis J. Walsh

Willis J. Walsh
Resident Construction Engineer
United States Maritime Commission

WJW:
Encl.

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