

Minutes

AIR HYGIENE & MANUFACTURING COMMITTEE
Asbestos Textile Institute
October 9, 1969 - The CAROLINA, Pinehurst, N.C.

In attendance:

H.H. Walter, Chairman -- American Asbestos Textile Corporation
L.E. Moody -- H.M. Porter Company, Inc.
R.C. Hunt -- Uniroyal, Inc.
R.B. Smith -- Raybestos-Manhattan, Inc.
A.R. Patterson -- " "
C.L. Sheckler -- Johns-Manville Corporation

Guests: S.R. Zimmerman, Jr. - Raybestos-Manhattan, Inc.
W.H. Deckman - Turner Bros. Asbestos Co., Ltd.
G. Griswold, Jr. - Nicolet Industries, Inc.

Minutes

Bausch & Lomb Automatic Dust Counter:- Summarizing the experience of the member companies with the B&L Dust Counter, the committee came to the conclusion that the B&L instrument is not to be considered a replacement for the Impinger, or for the Membrane Filter.

However, it appears to be a most suitable device for monitoring air contamination over extended periods of time. It is suggested to have various areas periodically monitored over a period of at least a shift, preferably over a period of twenty-four hours. During the recording time all changes in the environment due to changes in humidity, temperature, air-flow, operation, etc, are to be reported as to their nature, time, and duration. Subsequently the strip chart from the B&L Recorder is to be evaluated in conjunction with the environmental report. It will then be possible to pinpoint time, duration and extent of air contamination, and reasons for its occurrence over a full cycle of operation.

Whenever periods of high dust concentration have been observed it appears to be necessary to follow up as soon as possible with a dust count by means of the Impinger or the Membrane Filter, at the same location and under the same or at least similar conditions.

Most of our current programs are based on an industrial hygiene survey weekly or monthly. This interval of sampling appears to be too long to determine the effect of high concentration exposure of short duration as might be experienced under certain circumstances. The use of the B&L Dust Counter as a monitoring device, and the Membrane Filter as a fiber counter, supplementing each other, appears to be a most suitable way to pinpoint areas of high dust concentration and the reason thereof. Neither one by itself provides sufficient information.

We are recommending that member companies utilize the B&L Dust Counter in this manner to supplement their current industrial hygiene program. It would be most helpful to our industry if unusual

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Observations were brought to the attention of this committee.

Using the B&L Dust Counter in the described manner and inasmuch as the Impinger seems to have become obsolete (when the Membrane Filter is used in conjunction with the B&L Dust Counter) it is not necessary to develop a method for correlating dust counts obtained by the two instruments.

Membrane Filter Method:

Mr. C.L. Sheckler reported that the Impinger will most likely no longer be used and that the Membrane Filter Method is going to be the accepted method for evaluating asbestos dust. At the present time 12 fibers per cc, 5 microns plus, are considered to be the equivalent to 2 MFPCF as reported by Mr. J. Lynch, U.S.P.H. Service.

Cleaning Procedures:

Various methods for cleaning production equipment and rooms were discussed. A member of the committee reported on the use of the Abington System for periodic cleaning operations. Other member companies are using compressed air about twice a year for the removal of dust from pipes, rafters, ceilings, walls, etc. It appears to be most important that in this area major efforts are made to improve our methods and preferably prevent any excessive accumulation of dust.

Dust Prevention in Blending and Carding:

The committee members exchanged ideas in regards to dust abatement in the blending and carding operation. Enclosed blending lines, use of plastic bags for mixes, enclosed automatic card feed, lap system and other devices were discussed.

Respectfully submitted,

H.H. Walter
Chairman

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ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY COMMITTEE

Outline of remarks (unedited) by C.L. Sheckler, Chm.
at ATI General Meeting, October 10, 1969

1. Discussed a Position Paper (Special Report) to the Surgeon General from the Bureau of Occupational Safety and Health. Has reviewed a draft of the Paper but does not know when it will be published - perhaps within the next six months.

2. Discussed potential revision of Threshold Limit Value for Asbestos Dust. Current ACGIH TLV is 5.0 MPPCF. Walsh-Healy Act revision is 12 fibers per cc, or 2.0 MPPCF. Proposed TLV at this time is 6 fibers per cc, or 1.0 MPPCF, meaning fibers over 5 microns in length. A fibre is defined as being three times in length of its diameter.

3. Referred to meetings with Captain Rosenwinkle, Commanding Officer of Shipyard Repair and Environmental Health, concerning the Navy's search for substitutes for asbestos-containing materials, and use of new asbestos products that generate less dust. Concludes that the industry needs to develop and present new products that are less dusty and also needs to project educational material, or information, concerning use of asbestos products.

4. "Nader's Raiders" have been considerably involved in the Coal Industry "Black Lung" occupational disease problems, legislation and litigation. This group and movement has now moved into the area of the Cotton Textile Industry in respect to "Brown Lung" (Byssinosis) an occupational disease caused by inhalation of cotton dust. There is reason to believe that the investigation into cotton textiles may lead Nader, or someone else, to the Asbestos Textile Industry. It is therefore essential that ATI be alert and prepared. One of the greatest assets that we have in our favor is the cooperative health program that the ATI has undertaken with the U.S.P.H. Service. This program is in its third stage, the clinical examination stage, and has and will contribute a great deal of knowledge relative to the health problems relating to asbestos. Stressed that members who have been cooperating in the USPHS health program have no reason to be apprehensive, as we have been forthright in recognizing our difficulties, and we have been doing something about it. We must continue our efforts, and are currently making plans to do considerable work in the area of health information and education to the users of our products.

5. Reviewed current status of medical research work in conjunction with asbestos and mineral fibers. Mentioned participation by other manufacturing groups, i.e.: IAAIA, NIMA, ACPA, and recently the MPA.

6. Pointed out that the Air Hygiene & Mfg. Committee of ATI was concerned primarily with "In-Plant" conditions and problems, whereas the Environmental Study Committee's primary objective was to act in an advisory capacity on matters affecting our industry, outside the plant, such as legislation, litigation, medical research findings, customer education efforts, liaison with other industry groups, etc. Stressed the need for constant coordination between the two committees.

H.E. Sunbury
Secretary

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