THE INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION OF OHIO
DIVISION OF SAFETY AND HYGIENE

PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT

K-2050

March 30, 1960

James H. Fluker, Superintendent
Division of Safety and Hygiene
The Industrial Commission of Ohio
Columbus 15, Ohio

Re: Kimble Glass Company
Columbus, Ohio

1. On March 11, 1960 a visit was made to the above named company to check conditions where an ammonium formate solution is sprayed on hot molds. The visit was made at the request of the company.

2. Contact was made with R. J. Leddy, Safety Director; Richard S. Baker, Attorney; and S. E. Taylor, Project Engineer.

3. The company manufactures the glass portion of television picture tubes.

4. In forming the face of a picture tube, a blob of glass hot enough to be soft is dropped onto a metal mold in which it is shaped to the proper contour. Several molds are in a circle so that finished tube faces are removed from one side as new faces are made on the other. After being used for several hours, the metal molds become coated with a deposit and must be changed. The molds which have been removed are cleaned with a very fine wet-sand-blast and polished for re-use.

5. It has been found that the molds can be used substantially longer before they require replacing if the molds are sprayed with an ammonium formate solution after each tube face has been formed. The solution used contains about 25% ammonium formate.

6. An approximate timing of the cycle during which the spray is used showed it to be used for about one second and then the spray was off for about nine seconds. No odor was apparent during most of the period during which the spray was not used. A slight odor like that of formic acid was noticed while the solution was being sprayed on the hot mold. This immediate area is usually a non-working area. An employee would usually be there only to observe or adjust equipment. The vapors from the spray appeared to disperse very quickly since an odor from them was noticed only each time the spray came on.

7. Formic acid resembles acetic acid (the acid present in vinegar) but is somewhat more irritating. Concentrations of vapors at this operation do not appear to be high enough to constitute a health hazard.

Respectfully submitted,

DONALD W. RUMSEY
Industrial Hygienist

DWR:cac

5

OHIO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

ACTIVITIES REPORT

Division of Nursing

Date: [redacted]

REPORT OF: ☒ FIELD VISIT ☐ OFFICE VISIT

☐ TELEPHONE CONTACT ☐ OTHER

COUNTY Franklin (and/or) CITY Columbus

NAME OF AGENCY: Kimble Glass Company

CONSULTANT: Joseph B. Laffin, M.D.

PURPOSE OF CONTACT: Follow-up on mono-chlorobenzene

INTERVIEWS:

Name	Title	Agency
[redacted] Leddy	Safety Director	Kimble Glass Co.

PLANT DATA

No. of workers employed..... 1100

No. of workers exposed..... [redacted]

SOURCE OF VISIT

Planned or self-initiated .....

Request or complaint by ..... Leddy, Safety Dir.

Occupational Disease Report.....

Date report submitted: _____

WORKER HEALTH SERVICES

Promotion of plant health program.....

Consultation on medical aspects .....

Consultation on nursing aspects .....

Consultation with local health dept. on plant health services .....

Other specify..... Industrial Hy .....

Occupational diseases investigated.

Date for follow-up [redacted]

(Other side for - "Report with Suggestions or Recommendations")

6

REPORT WITH SUGGESTIONS OR RECOMMENDATIONS:

Background and Observations

Mr. Leddy, Safety Director of Kimble Glass, Columbus, had made a request of the Division of Safety and Hygiene to provide a representative for a conference with the company's consulting dermatologist, the chairman of the union's grievance committee, and seven workers who had various types of skin disease that may or may not have been occupational in origin.

In the course of our tour of the plant, I made a specified point of inspecting the quality control (QC) testing facilities, newly designed for the purpose of containing the apparatus, racks and other paraphernalia used in checking finished glass quality. The monochlorobenzene is no longer used in the general plant area. Within the QC area, its use is confined to a small bath (18 x 24") which appears to be adequately exhausted from a slot along the rear dimension. The odor of monochlorobenzene is definite within this room. Two workers staff this station. One is circulating through the plant while the other is testing a load of glass. Apparently each worker does his own collecting and testing. The one worker available at the time stated that until the exhaust was finished and became operational one week ago, the vapors caused some nausea and made him slightly dizzy, but at present the situation is much improved and he feels fine.

Comment

1. The observations cited above were based on a cursory inspection. Mr. Leddy admitted that too great a time had elapsed between the planning of the Q.C. station and the on set of its operation (approximately two months ago); in addition he was particularly distressed with the fact that adequate ventilation of the monochlorobenzene bath did not exist until just one week ago. Apparently both he and Mr. Hazard had much difficulty with the people responsible for the implementation of the original recommendation. There was no elaboration of this point.

2. Truly satisfactory management of the vapors arising from the glass drying in the mobile racks demands that these racks be stationed beneath ventilated canopies or in partially enclosed booths. It could be that the vapor concentrations which are now present in the atmosphere of the QC room are indeed harmless, but I should like to have the opportunity to query all eight QC attendants before considering that they have no symptoms. It is quite possible that a very low concentration of monochlorobenzene gives an appreciable odor. In any event, it seems paradoxical that an organization which works so diligently in providing its employees with recreational and club facilities is both so casual and careless in its attitude toward industrial hygiene.

Recommendation

I believe it would be more worthwhile to give Sam Serfarian an opportunity to review this file and then take up the matter of the adequacy of the present setup and future plans directly with Mr. Hazard with whom he appears to have an excellent working relationship.

8-10-57 (Rev. 1-6-57)