

FILE NAME: Firestone (FIRE)

DATE: 1967 July 27

DOC#: FIRE016

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Memo RE Establishment of a Medical Advisory Council to the R.M.A. [BC Notes on FIRE001 after Ex. 302]

BC Notes: Dr. L. Ballou memo to JA Meek -- Corp. Med. Dir. urges the establishment by Rubber Mfgs. Assn. of a medical advisory council to conduct industry-wide studies and establish guidelines for better "safeguarding the worker against toxic exposures and the industry against fraudulent or unjustified claim." Refers to similar med. committees in the oil and chemical industries.

FILE

JULY 27, 1967

MR. J. A. MEKK

DR. L. H. RALLOU

ESTABLISHMENT OF A MEDICAL ADVISORY
COUNCIL TO THE R.M.A.

With increasing frequency, the medical departments of various rubber companies are being asked questions about toxic exposures for which there are no answers. Most of the major companies can produce examples of compensation claims lost because no adequate data is available to support them in defense of often spurious claims.

In the past, each company attempted individually to develop defensive evidence but because of the increasing sophistication and costs of such studies it is becoming more and more necessary to investigate these common problems on a broader base.

It is recommended that the Rubber Manufacturers' Association establish a Medical Advisory Council. The purpose of this council would be to inaugurate certain industrywide studies designed to develop data and establish guidelines to aid the rubber industry in more effectively safeguarding the worker against toxic exposure and the industry against fraudulent or unjustified claims.

LHB:rf

MEDICAL DIRECTOR

cc: Mr. E. T. Handley

Copies with notes to:

C. A. Johnson, M.D. - Goodyear
E. R. Plunkett, M.D.
Rex H. Wilson, M.D. - Goodrich
J. H. Wolfsie, M.D. - Uniroyal

CC: L Ballou M.D.
Firestone T & R Co.

August 1, 1967

*Put in my
letter to the Union
about this
letter for 11/1/67*

H O Ball
Vice President

**Subject: The Establishment of Rubber Manufacturers
Association Health and Safety Committee**

In the rubber industry today there exists many problems related to the health and safety of the industry's work force.

Work toward the solution of some of the problems has been done over the years on an individual company basis to satisfy an immediate need with little if any benefit to other companies, both large and small, in the industry. There is a definite need for an industry-wide approach to the solution of these problems.

The militancy of organized labor in the industry in regard to the health and safety of its members has become more and more evident in recent labor contract negotiations. Industry management simply cannot afford to relinquish to the labor organizations the lead in creating and maintaining a work environment which is not detrimental to the health and safety of its workers.

The trend in Workmen's Compensation law is one of increasing benefits. The rulings of the State Industrial Commissions and of the courts have become much more liberal in the interpretation of the law and generosity of awards for disability due to alleged work exposures.

The rubber industry, in general, finds itself on the defensive and yet unprepared to defend itself adequately against claims of injury and/or illness allegedly due to work exposures. One of the reasons for this is a lack of knowledge of the full extent of long and short term work exposures to the chemical dusts and fumes, heat, noise, etc. present in the work environments of the industry.

It is with these thoughts in mind that the creation of a Health and Safety Committee within the framework of the Rubber Manufacturer's Association is strongly urged. The make-up of the committee would include medical, industrial hygiene and safety representation.

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DR. L. H. BALLOU

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Such a committee could serve in an advisory capacity to the Association to establish common denominators for health and safety within the industry.

Similar committees have been in existence in the petroleum and chemical industries for many years and have rendered significant service to these industries in regard to the health and safety of their workers as well as to the consumers of the industries products.

The Medical Director requests that the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company representation in the Rubber Manufacturers Association give consideration and support to the establishment of a Health and Safety Committee within the association.

**C A Johnson, M.D.
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Medical Director