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May 17, 1967

Benjamin Foster Company
4635 West Girard Avenue
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19131

Attention: Mr. W. H. Kaal
Plant Superintendent

Gentlemen:

A survey to evaluate employees' exposure to asbestos dust at the mixer charging operations was conducted in your plant on April 26, 1967. The survey was made with the cooperation of Mr. J. Bagley, assistant superintendent.

Samples of airborne dust were collected with midget impingers containing 95 percent ethyl alcohol. Dust concentrations were determined from these samples using a standardized light-field microscopic technique and are presented in the attached Table.

The threshold limit value (TLV) for asbestos-containing dust is 5 million particles per cubic foot of air, based on exposure for an 8-hour working day. Considering the magnitude of the dust concentrations (see Table) and the exposure time, exposures to asbestos-containing dust approach the threshold limit values. Because of our findings, the following recommendations are made.

1. Require that respirators approved by the U. S. Bureau of Mines for protection against dusts having a threshold limit value of 2.5 million particles per cubic foot, or greater, be worn by employees engaged in charging mixers.

2. Maintain respiratory equipment in accordance with Article 432, Section 43.

3. Modify the existing local exhaust ventilation systems on the mixers to more effectively control dust emissions during the charging operation. This may be accomplished by redesigning the exhaust hoods so that bags are emptied within these hoods.

4. Institute a periodic housekeeping program to remove accumulated dust from equipment, overhead structures, walls and floors. Cleaning should be done utilizing wet and/or vacuum methods.

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4635 West Girard Avenue
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19131

5. Institute a program of preplacement and annual chest X-ray examinations for all employees exposed to dust.

Please notify this office within 30 days of the steps you are taking to carry out these recommendations. If you have any questions, please let us know.

Our Hygienic Information Guides entitled "Asbestos" and "Personal Respiratory Protective Equipment", our booklet entitled "Dust" and Article 432, as revised, are enclosed.

Very truly yours,

Leon T. Donaldson
Regional Industrial Hygienist

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Enclosures (4)

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Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Department of Health
OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

Table

Dust Concentrations

Benjamin Foster Company
4635 West Girard Avenue
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Location	Dust* (millions of particles per cubic foot of air)	Remarks
Batch mixing room	1.8	General air, no charging
	1.6	
	4.1	General air, right after charging large mixer
	3.9	Charging mixers, not all asbestos
	6.0	
	2.6	Operator's breathing zone, starting charging operation
	9.6	Operator's breathing zone, charging asbestos into mixer
	16.0	
	33.4	Operator's breathing zone, charging P-134 (mica)

*Threshold limit value for asbestos-containing dust, based on exposure for an 8-hour working day - 5 million particles per cubic foot of air.

Survey by-

Patricia Bradley
Industrial Hygienist

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