

ABEX CORPORATION
INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE SURVEY
(ASBESTOS)
AMERICAN BRAKEBLOK
WINCHESTER, VIRGINIA
AUGUST 14 - 18, 1972



PURPOSE

This survey was the continuation of a study which was initiated to determine the extent of asbestos exposure to employees in the Plant. Additional surveys will be scheduled to complete the evaluation.

Several of the asbestos samples collected from locations processing lead compounds were also selected for lead analysis, to determine airborne concentrations at various operations.

SUMMARY

Samples were collected in five different departments throughout the Plant, including Book Preform, Book Press, Block Preform, Strip Finishing, and Inspection and Packaging.

The results of the asbestos study disclosed two (2) locations where airborne asbestos concentrations were above the current eight-hour time weighted average exposure limit of 5 fibers/ml.

Referring to Sample No. 15 in the Analyses of Air Samples for Asbestos, the concentration found at Machine No. P-11, operated by C. Orndorff was 6.01 fibers/ml. Exposure levels at other Block Preform machines in the area were also elevated, but did not reach the 5 fiber/ml exposure limit. It was noted that the mix is handled intimately by the operators during the preform cycle. In addition to manually transferring the mix from container to the mold, the material is measured and spread by hand. As none of the Preform units are provided with adequate exhaust ventilation, the continuous manual operations are generating increased airborne concentrations of asbestos fibers.

Sample No. 56, at a concentration of 5.37 fibers/ml, was collected at the vertical saw adjacent to the Book Press Department. The saw was operated by R. F. Putnam, and was in nearly continuous use during collection of the sample. The unit is not provided with local exhaust ventilation, and significant quantities of airborne particulates are generated



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