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THE NEW YORK CENTRAL RAILROAD COMPANY

Chicago, Ill. December 31, 1936

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Mr. Armstrong Chinn, Chairman,
Railroad Engineering and Shop Committee,
340 W. Harrison Street,
Chicago, Illinois.

Dear Sir:

Referring to our meeting of December 21st, Room 322 in Union Station, at which time it was suggested that a letter be written by each committeeman to the Chairman of the Committee making such suggestions as deemed necessary for the purpose of making up a bulletin pertaining to Pulmonary Asbestosis:

I have given this subject careful study or thought on the handling of asbestos from the time it is received by the Stores Department, which of course, some is in block form which is crated, some is known as the sheet asbestos and some is furnished in bags, which is ground or known as pulp asbestos. This pulp asbestos in the bag is considered the most dangerous of the three on account of the amount of dust in it and I would suggest that the employees handling this asbestos from the time it is received and applied to the boilers should wear respirators, giving consideration of course to other employees working in the vicinity.

The block asbestos of course, is not as dangerous, but I feel that men handling same should be protected as well as when handling the pulp, when the asbestos is removed from the boilers at time of inspections either at engine houses or back shops. I would recommend that it be wet down to the extent that it would eliminate any dust coming from same when being removed and as was suggested at the meeting, to be removed from the boilers at a time when the least number of employees are on duty. While I fully realize this cannot be handled at all points alike, but this should be given some thought.

We find at points where it is necessary to use the block asbestos, which has been removed, this has to be ground by an asbestos grinding machine. From my observation this is the dangerous part of the handling of asbestos and in conclusion, I would recommend that all employees handling asbestos should wear respirators, equip such machines as are being used for grinding asbestos with an exhaust system.

I have tried to follow the handling of asbestos through from the time it is received until

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it is applied and I hope that some of these suggestions
will be beneficial in assisting Mr. Freels and yourself
in making up your bulletins.

Yours truly,

T. P. BALL

Master Mechanic

C O P Y

CHICAGO, MILWAUKEE, ST. PAUL & PACIFIC R. R. CO.

November 27, 1933

In battery furnace rooms where the fumes may be restricted as well as in battery repair rooms, paint shops, paint spraying, etc.

In this connection I would be glad of descriptive information of such facilities and operations in the various departments, giving size of the rooms or buildings involved with approximate total cubic feet of air space and maximum number of employees involved. In addition to which it is recommended as a temporary and immediate measure of protection that in all such operations employees be required to wear respirators when engaged in such operations in small rooms or in location where excessive fumes are usually encountered.

A. Silicosis:

The hazard in this connection develops from contact with abrasive substances such as from emery grinders, sand blasting, etc. (Note- Portable grinders are excluded from this rule but this does not lessen the employer's liability in the event of silicosis developing and it would be advisable to immediately require each employee using portable grinders such as frame jaw grinders which may be in use for one to several hours in an 8 hour day to wear respirators while so engaged. Wet grinders are excluded)

If in any shop or room, one or more grinders are employed and in the aggregate are used two or more hours in an 8 hour day it becomes a violation of the present rule. In this connection it may be found advisable to either concentrate all of our dry grinders to wet grinders or segregate these machines. It is desired that information be furnished showing location, number of grinders, approximate time used in the aggregate within 8 hours, total cubic feet of air space in the room with the maximum number of employees involved.

B. Asbestosis.

The handling of asbestos lagging would here be involved and perhaps the worst situation to be met is the removal of lagging from locomotive boilers, the grinding of broken parts such as is done at some points and the handling of same. It would appear of great importance to minimize this hazard as much as possible and it is suggested that we refrain from grinding any more of this lagging in the State of Illinois. Such instructions were issued by at least one of the other lines.

It is my thought, and we expect to make some experiments,

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that by wetting the lagging on the boiler before removing it, then submerging the broken parts in water and breaking it up while wet that we can avoid excessive asbestos dust and at the same time reclaim the lagging without the use of the grinder.

It is suggested that this or some appropriate practice be followed to safeguard this operation, in addition to requiring the employees so engaged to wear respirators. It is also suggested that the removal of lagging, insofar as practical, be done in locations where employees engaged in other work may not be in close contact with it.

It should be understood that an employee so affected need not have been actually engaged in the particular occupation but if his work involves contact the liability is the same as if he were actually so occupied.

It is not significant that our records do not indicate instances wherein such diseases have developed as the information by reason of the publicity of the act will undoubtedly result by suggestion in claims being originated in instances of sickness heretofore not made known.

For the further study of the question with a view to developing such information as may be advantageous in the development of new rules to supersede those now in effect and particularly for argument in opposing such rules as may be proposed that would appear unreasonable or impracticable, will Messrs. Penfield, Mullen, Thompson and Snell, please review all such activities within their jurisdiction in the State of Illinois, giving me the information specifically requested above, together with comments as to suggestions for immediate protective measures which are contained herein.

G. L. EVERTON

Master Mechanic

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