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HOLMES #8

ASBESTOS TEXTILE INSTITUTE

Minutes of Meeting of Air Hygiene Committee - 12/9/53

This meeting was attended by the following:

Thos. Schmidt of K & M
Geo. Luttenberger of R & M
John Weber of American Asbestos Co.
G. Novack representing Union, Charlotte Plant
Benj. Stanton of J-M
Ralph Smith of R-M, Charleston Plant
John McCormack & D. R. Holmes of Asten-Hill Mfg. Co.

This meeting was comprised to two sessions. The morning session was devoted to the study of a survey of asbestosis incidence case histories complete with years of exposure submitted by member Companies. This survey showed the percentage of incidence of asbestosis cases in relation to the number of employees exposed in each plant. This study shows percentage figures varying from five to eleven percent of those employees working in exposed areas affected. A copy of this survey is enclosed and is to be part of th minutes.

In our discussion it was brought out that perhaps the survey did not delve far enough into the subject of exposure. Also, the following factors should have been considered in order to make thi survey more accurate. A study of the employees' work record, the exposure of the departments in which he had worked or works, his period of employment and the total time of exposure and dust count recorded in these areas during periods of exposure.

This information may be necessary in order to determine just where the disease was contacted and why.

This survey showed one Company with a Stage 1 case with only three years of exposure and one other Company showed one Stage 1 case with only two years of exposure. We believe that if these cases were reported accurately they could have been avoided by the use of proper pre-hire physical and x-ray examinations.

Discussion of forced breathing therapy and its value took place. It was agreed that this equipment is of some value in givi relief to Asbestotics in Stages 1, 2 & 3. In many cases these people have shown remarkable improvement in their condition and it aids them in that they learn to breathe deeper all through thei daily lives, both on and off the job. This tends to give people a lift in their daily living in that they breathe easier, walk easier, have a better appetite and sleep more normally. There were three member Companies present using this apparatus and all three reported good results.



The next matter under discussion was the particle size and diameter study to be made by the Traveler's Engineering Laboratory in Hartford. Each member Company is to forward samples, according to instructions received, to this Laboratory within the next few weeks. As Travelers' have accepted this project it was agreed that we should all cooperate in this survey and, it may be that we will have the results of this study possibly for the Spring meeting. It is hoped that this study will answer some of our questions concerning the particle sizes and diameters of fibres and their relation to the contacting of asbestosis.

The Committee was pleased to note that the U.S.P.H.S has agree to include dust sampling equipment in their current dust survey. The Committee feels that this operation is a major step toward the solving of some of the problems involved in standardizing dust count studies throughout the Industry.

AFTERNOON SESSION

American Wheelobraiter was by far the best type of collecter on the market for the handling of asbestos dust.

We then discussed many types of dust collection equipment and dust eliminating processes being used throughout plants in the entire industry. This discussion covered spray systems, water-wetti systems, oil systems for mixes, dust systems for Cards, Pickers, Weave Room, Winders, etc. All member Companies are making some progress in the elimination of dust. After some discussion the problem of dry weaving came up and after a full discourse on this subject it was decided by the Committee that we make recommendations to members at the General Meeting, December 10th, to this effect:

RECOMMENDATION

Due to the fact that it is our job to eliminate dust in an effort to protect our plant personnel from this hazard, we recommend that a study be made by the Technical Committee of the possibility of eliminating dry weaving in member Company plants. We ask that this recommendation be given consideration by the full committee.

At the General Meeting, this recommendation was accepted.

AGENDA FOR SPRING MEETING - 1954

SUBJECTS:

1. Twister Enclosure and Spinner Survey
2. Travelers' Report of Dust Particle Survey
3. Report on U.S.P.H.S. Sampling Equipment Survey if available by this time.
4. The Study of the Possibility of Eliminating Dry Weaving.

ASBESTOSIS INCIDENCE STUDY

Five member Companies reported their experiences:

COMPANY A

This Company reports 22 cases in three stages;

7	Stage #1
13	Stage #2
2	Stage #3

There are also six borderline cases as yet to be determined. This Company employes 295 people. The percentage of incidence of asbestosis is 7.46% for classes #1,2 and 3 or 9.66% including the six questionable or borderline cases.

This survey was completed on October 1, 1953. This study was made from a history of x-rays covering the period of 1945 until the present.

It is presumed, at present, that no one should contract asbestosis with less than five years exposure. However, this Company's experience at present is that one person in Stage #1 has been employed only six years and another in Stage #1 has been employed only eight years. Also, in Stage #2 there is one employee with nine years and one employee with 10 years.

COMPANY B

This Company does not report any questionable or borderline cases. There are 363 employees here engaged. The percentage rate in this case is that 5.23% of the average number of employees are affected. Also, the earliest a person contracted asbestosis in Stage #1 was after twelve years of exposure. The year periods run from twelve years to 28 years of exposure.

COMPANY C

This Company reports a total of 125 employees under exposure. Of this number, there are fourteen cases of asbestosis at this plant. These are:

8	Stage #1
4	Stage #2
2	Stage #3

This report shows that 11.2% of the total number of employees exposed were affected. This Company reports one male in Stage #1 with only five years exposure. There is one in Stage #1 with nine years, one in Stage #1 with ten years, one in Stage #2 with five years and one in Stage #2 with nine years of exposure.