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Occupational Dust Hazards

SPECIAL HAZARDS SURVEY

Prepared by OWENS-CORNING FIBERGLASS
BERLIN, N. J.

May 11, 1961

SUBJECT

OCCUPATIONAL DUST HAZARDS

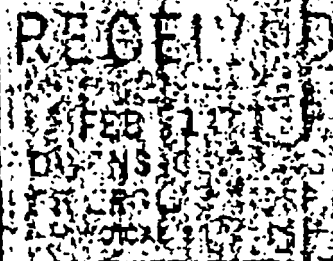


ANOTHER SERVICE FROM THE OFFICE OF

PIOTON & CAVALLUGH

Prepared by

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RESEARCH DIVISION



Safety Engineering Department

AETNA CASUALTY AND SURETY COMPANY

Affiliated with Aetna Life Insurance Company & Standard Fire Insurance Company

OWENS CORNING FIBERGLAS
BERLIN, N. J.

May 11, 1961

PURPOSE:

This visit was made at the request of our Philadelphia Engineering Department to evaluate the employee asbestosis exposure associated with your batch, cutting and routing operations.

CONTACTS:

In company with our Philadelphia Engineering Superintendent, Mr. D. H. Sullivan I contacted your Plant Manager, Mr. O. W. Pfeifer.

PROCEDURE:

Air was sampled at the rate of 0.1 cubic feet per minute utilizing ridge, in fingers with isopropyl alcohol as collecting media. The samples were taken in the general area of the units and operations surveyed as well as in the employee breathing zones at specified locations. Dust counts were made on a light field as prescribed by the United States Public Health Service method for dust counting.

FINDINGS:

Our findings, as well as pertinent remarks can be studied and interpreted from the attached Appendix A.

CRITERIA:

The threshold limit adopted at the 22nd Annual Meeting of Governmental Industrial Hygienists for mineral dusts containing asbestos is 5 million particles per cubic foot of air.

DISCUSSION:

With reference to the above, it can be seen that in only two of the operations studied has the threshold limit been exceeded. It should be pointed out, however, that although the threshold limit value has been exceeded in both operations that the limit in one instance was only slightly exceeded and in the other operation the exposure was intermittent.

It was not possible for us to make a dust study at the feed end of the flat ware finishing line since the line was not operating after the lunch hour. The counts at the other locations on the line, viz. the turnover, and the two packaging stations were close to or exceeding (See sample No. 3 in Appendix A) the threshold

limit. We would like to point out, however, that at all these stations, there was a considerable improvement from that noted on our Mr. Robinson's 1959 survey. In addition, we were assured that the employee exposed to the highest concentrations normally wears a respirator. We would recommend, however, that the exhaust systems on this line be properly maintained and kept operating at peak efficiency.

The dust levels noted near your trim saws were well below the prescribed threshold limit. Samples were taken at operator's breathing level near trim saws A and B. Both of these were working on 3x1 pieces. The noted concentrations at both levels were approximately the same. The Trim B saw which operates on the larger 12x2 pieces was not running during our survey.

The general area dust concentrations in the Batch House was well within the prescribed limits. The counts noted at operator's breathing level during the mixing operation was slightly higher. Since dusts of a nuisance category such as lime, limestone and other ingredients would also score in our counts and since this is an intermittent operation, 12 minutes per batch for approximately 8 to 10 batches per day, it is our belief that the exposure here is not serious.

CONCLUSION:

The dust counts made from the air samples taken at the various locations in your asbestos operations were found to be within the prescribed threshold limits. There are no recommendations being submitted at this time.

The writer wishes to express his appreciation for the courtesy extended to him during his visit.

B. By, Research Division
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APPENDI

NO.	UNIT	LOCATION	REMARKS	EMPLOYEES EXPOSED	RESULTS (1)
1.	Billet Finish- ing Machine	Feed Station Operator's breathing zone.	Packaging & Wrapping wet operations.	2 of 4	2.6
2.	Flat Ware Finish- ing Line	Packaging Employee's breathing zone (far end)	Employee does not wear respirator	1	4.3
3.	"	Packaging Employee's breathing zone (nearest exhaust)	Employee wears res- pirator intermittently.	1	8.4
4.	"	Turn-Over Station Operator's breathing zone.	"	1	3.2
5.	Trim Saw A	Operator's breathing level	"	1	1.6
6.	Trim Saw B	"	"	1	1.5
7.	Batch House	General Area	"	2	0.8
8.	"	Operator's breathing zone during mixing operation	Intermittent exposure (12 minutes per batch)	1	11.2

NOTE: Results are given in million particles 10 microns or less in size per cubic foot of air.

B. R. Roy

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