INTERNAL CORRESPONDENCE APRIL 3, 1964

FROM INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE COMMITTEE
DAVENPORT WORKS

TO MR. W. F. KNEELAND
DAVENPORT WORKS

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PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT
AL-297

cc: Mr. T. B. Bonney, Pittsburgh
Dr. L. V. Cralley, Pittsburgh
Mr. W. C. Harvey, Davenport
Mr. J. H. Lowry, Davenport
Dr. A. W. Shafer, Davenport
Mr. B. D. Kent, Davenport
Mr. Ron Small, Davenport
Mr. G. J. Myers, Davenport
Mr. C. L. Huey, Davenport
Mr. B. T. Evans, Davenport
Mr. J. O. Vanest, Davenport
Mr. G. H. Walter, Davenport

C O N F I D E N T I A L

INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE COMMITTEE MEETING - MARCH 1964

The March meeting of the Davenport Industrial Hygiene Committee was held at 12:30 p.m. March 25, 1964, in the small dining room of the Main Cafeteria. Attending were the following: Messrs. J. O. Vanest, B. T. Evans, W. C. Harvey, G. J. Myers, B. D. Kent, J. H. Lowry, and Dr. A. W. Shafer.

No further revisions have been made to the existing duct system of the 2020 furnace in Remelt since this system is being redesigned.

The Skim House fan is now installed. The noise problem in the #8 DC Pit Area remains unchanged. It was suggested that ear muffs be recommended for the Scalper Area personnel unless the problem is solved within the next three or four weeks.

Weights have been added to the side plates of the 125 Horsepower Motor in the Plate Mill and as a result the noise has dropped to a safe level.

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The air knives on #4 and #7 Cold Mills are now using low pressure blow offs and the indication is that this arrangement will be used in the Foil Mill.

Noise problems in the #5 stand area of the Continuous Mill, the Foil Mill Trimmer and Foil Mill heat treat area remain as problems to be investigated by the Engineering Division.

Graphs of noise level readings are to be submitted to and maintained by the Chairman of the Industrial Hygiene Committee.

Further trials are to be made of the Lomb Air Mover. The Air Mover worked very well in removing oil mist and in drawing cooler air into the #4 Mill Morgoil Tank. In the #7 Cold Mill Tank, fumes were removed but were recirculated back into the tank because no doors were opened to admit fresh outside air.

Some work has been done for collecting dust when sawing marinite in the Carpenter Shop. However, further work is held up pending decisions for a final location for sawing this material.

A study of the paint fume problem in the Paint Line Coater House is underway. It is hoped that this problem will be solved by the April meeting.

Four catalytic attachments are on order for the exhausts of the trucks in the loading area to reduce a CO problem found inside transport truck vans.

The Chairman appointed a committee to investigate the large number of tanks and manholes which will require testing before permitting entrance by any of our employees.

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The Committee consists of B. D. Kent, Chairman; Dr. A. W. Shafer, Messrs. C. L. Huey and J. H. Lowry. It was re-emphasized that the foreman or supervisor of the project was responsible for notifying the Laboratory or Pyrometric Department for testing before entering hazardous areas.

The Committee appointed to investigate the audiometric program reported on their findings via attached report by Dr. Shafer.

W. C. HARVEY

J. H. LOWRY

WCH/JHL:kk

Attachment

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INTERNAL CORRESPONDENCE March 20, 1964

FROM A. W. SHAFER, M.D. TO MR. W. C. HARVEY

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT INDUSTRIAL HYGIENIC COMMITTEE

RE: RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING HEARING CONSERVATION PROGRAM

The aims of a hearing conservation program, the need for such a program, a suggested method of initiating and implementing it, and a few of the benefits to be expected from same are outlined below:

I. Aims:

A. Prevention of hearing loss by:

1. An in the mill noise survey program coupled with action to reduce noise in areas where it is a potential problem, or enforcement of rules regarding the use of proper ear protection if this is more practical. Steps in this direction have been taken.

2. To find noise susceptible individuals and take action to prevent hearing loss.

B. Provide permanent records for reference should we be faced with a hearing loss claim.

1. Noise survey record.

2. Individual Audiometric record.

C. To aid in placement of employees according to their hearing ability. A partially deaf person may be a valuable employee, but present a safety hazard in some areas.

D. To complement our physical examination program.

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II. Need:

A. As outlined in the aims of a hearing conservation program prevention of hearing loss is important to the employee and the Company.

B. Recognition of hearing loss at the time of employment is important because it makes it a matter of record.

C. Compensation laws in Missouri, New York, and Wisconsin contain provisions dealing specifically with compensation for gradual loss of hearing. Thirty states, including the three above, provide full occupational disease coverage and awards have been made for what is termed "gradual-injury". Alcoa has had 30 hearing loss claims at Vernon, one at Edison and one at Bauxite, which have averaged over $2,000.00 each. There may be more of which I am not aware. The AFL CIO has thru their representatives suggested language for insertion into the Walsh-Healy Act specifically dealing with noise control, noise level limits, audiometry and hearing conservation.

Thus far Iowa has had very few compensation cases involving hearing loss. According to Mr. C. H. Greenley, Deputy Industrial Commissioner, the few that have taken place have been settled amicably without a hearing, excepting the one case noted in the Code. A man's ability to recover for a hearing loss in Iowa would not be limited to his having been exposed to a single traumatic incident such as a blow on the head or explosion. The maximum loss of hearing due to industrial injury would be equal to 175 weeks compensation ($6,500.00). Mr. Greenley be-

lieves that Waivers on people with significant hearing loss would be advisable for both employee and employer.

C. I predict that Iowa will someday be forced to legislate provisions into its Workmen's Compensation Law dealing with hearing loss. With enactment of such legislation we will be facing many unjustified compensation claims unless we are in a position to defend ourselves with appropriate records.

III. Initiating & Implementing the Program:

A. In the mill noise survey:

A "go or no-go" type of survey meter has been acquired and is in use. Its continued use, and maintenance of a permanent record of findings should be kept. A duplicate record of these findings should also be on file in either the Medical or Safety Department.

B. In areas where noise is a potential problem action should be taken to bring the noise to safe limits if this is feasible, or to insist on adequate ear protection for employees if necessary.

C. An audiometric program should be initiated with an audiometric examination being made a part of all pre-employment examinations and as experience dictates a part of our periodic physical examination program. This will require the acquisition of an Audiometer and a sound attenuating booth for audiometric testing. Our medical technicians will need training in audiometry so that results of our examinations will not be challenged. Records of audiometry should be made a part of the employee's medical record.

IV. Cost of the Audiometric Program:

A. Audiometry equipment and installation:

1. A copy of the Maico representative's proposal and quotation of prices for audiometer and booth is enclosed. After careful study of available booths and audiometers, I feel that the equipment listed in this quotation fits our needs.

2. Installation of this equipment will require one supervisor and two hourly men about one day. Electrical connection will be needed.

B. Each audiometric test done should take about five minutes time.

C. Maintenance of records will add a minimal burden.

D. Training of technicians:

1. Instruction in use of equipment and basic audiometry will be furnished by Maico representative free of charge.

2. Further training under Dr. James Curtis at the State University of Iowa has been advised by Tom Bonney and would require one week's time for each trainee.

A. W. SHAFER, M.D.

AWS:ep

Enc. Copy of Maico representative's proposal.

ARD 044155

TRI-CITIES HEARING AID CENTER

TELEPHONE 323-5330

ERLING LARSON
Manager

502 Davenport Bank Building
DAVENPORT - - IOWA

March 16, 1964

Dr. Arthur W. Shafer,
Medical Director,
Alcoa, Davenport Works,
Riverdale, Iowa.

Dear Dr. Shafer:

This will confirm our telephone conversation as of this date, regarding the delivery f.o.b. Davenport of the following equipment:

1 Sound Proof Room known as 402M --
Forced Ventilation

1 Maico MA-2 Audiometer

Net price to you $2688. The inside dimensions of this Sound Proof Room are 72" x 64" x 78".

I might mention here that the quoted price of the 402M is $2045.00.

The Ventilation Unit	285.00
The Maico MA-2 Audiometer	358.00
and the quoted price from the Eastern Express 4000 pounds to Davenport	142.40
for a total of	$2830.40

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I am quoting you a net price of $2688.

I would like to point out too that we supply loaners at no charge. When, if and ever an audiometer should have to go in for repair and recalibration, the present prevailing price for repair and recalibration of the MA-2 is $50.00. I am enclosing a sheet showing the complete job that's done on each audiometer and the Maico factory give a six month's repair guarantee.

Most Sincerely,

ERLING LARSON Mgr.

EL:ms
Enc.