

Inspection and Control Procedures

places where serious injuries have occurred. This is why no-injury accidents and near-accidents should be checked—they will often point to causes of future injuries.

General inspections are particularly valuable before reopening a plant after a long shutdown or previous to a safety campaign or contest. However, they should not take the place of other types of inspections. A general inspection should not signal that all responsibility has ended for the continual inspection throughout the year, nor should known hazards be neglected until such general inspections are made.

Inspecting buildings and physical plant has to be conducted yearly.

- 1 Do the physical conditions noted contain potential accident hazards?
- 2 What practical measures can and should be taken to remove such hazards or failure points?
- 3 Is there any catastrophe hazard present that warrants immediate corrective measures?

An adequate checklist will call attention to the following items and conditions: *

- **GROUNDS**—Parking lots, roadways, and sidewalks need frequent inspection for cracks, holes, breaks and tripping hazards.
- **LOADING AND SHIPPING PLATFORMS**—Loading and shipping platforms and docks get severe use from trucks and heavy traffic. Guard rails are needed to prevent damage from tail ends of trucks.
- **OUTSIDE STRUCTURES**—Small isolated buildings should be inspected the same way as the larger plant buildings. Plant fencing should be inspected for damage by tanks, cars, and other causes as well as corrosion and painting.
- **RAILROAD TRACKS**—Railroad sidings that are company-owned require regular inspection for washouts, condition of rails, clearance, missing joint plates and spikes, rotted ties and the need for additional ballast.
- **FLOORS**—Floors, regardless of construction, should be carefully inspected especially in areas subject to heavy traffic. Slipperiness

of floors should receive special study and floor treatment.

- 1 Are the surfaces wearing too rapidly?
- 2 Is shrinkage present?
- 3 Is the surface damaged or worn?
- 4 Are there slippery surfaces?
- 5 Are there hazards to trucking or walking, such as holes or unguarded openings?
- 6 Are there indications of cracks, sagging, or warping?
- 7 Are replacements necessary because of deterioration, etc.?

• **STAIRWAYS**—Stairways should be checked to determine:

- 1 Are treads and risers in good condition and of uniform width and height?
- 2 Are standard handrails provided and are they in good condition and secure?
- 3 Is lighting on stairs satisfactory?
- 4 Is there any material stored on stairs?

• **HOUSEKEEPING**—The general housekeeping throughout the plant should be checked to see if it is satisfactory. Aisles should be marked off with painted lines and material kept out of aisle width.

• **ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS**—Every year more than 700 persons are fatally shocked by accidents involving less than 750 volts.

• **WIRING**—The physical plant survey should include a periodic inspection of all plant wiring.

• **TRANSFORMERS-SWITCHBOARDS**—The survey should include an examination of transformer and switchboard installations.

• **ELEVATORS**—The efficient and safe operation of plant elevators is an important physical survey determination.

• **ROOFS**—A specialized item in the survey of the physical plant is roof anchorage.

• **FACTORY CHIMNEY STACKS**—A thorough periodic annual inspection of chimneys and stacks by a competent person will uncover minor damages before they progress too far and become critical conditions.

* Robert L. Moore, 1963 *Congress Transactions* (See "References")