



The Industrial Commission
Of Ohio
Division Of Safety & Hygiene
246 N. High St., Col., O. 43215

June 13, 1983

Legal Section
Industrial Commission of Ohio
246 N. High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

O.D. 19756-22
Adrian Duff
Armco, Inc.
Middletown, Ohio

Attn: Judy Spencer

Dear Ms. Spencer:

The claimant, Adrian Duff, was hired by Armco's Eastern Steel Division located in Middletown, Ohio on March 6, 1944. He worked in the Fabricating Division until October 12, 1944 at which time he entered the U. S. Navy. He returned to work at Armco on September 3, 1952 as a Labor Reserve employee. The claimant transferred into the Pipe Shop in 1952 where he was classified as a pipefitter until his last day of work on June 25, 1982.

Due to the nature of the claimant's work, it was not possible to investigate any particular work site. However, discussions held with the pipefitter's foreman and several safety and health representatives were quite informative with regard to obtaining specifics.

During his first 9-10 years as pipefitter the claimant was described as performing pipefitting duties rather than insulating duties. Apparently, several specialized jobs exist within the pipefitter category, one of which involves the removal and replacement of pipe insulations. General pipefitters, however, did remove existing insulation prior to 1977 or 1978 at which time Armco began using outside contractors. The claimant did a great deal of insulating from about 1961-1972. According to his foreman there was a daily exposure to asbestos during this time period. Also, respiratory protection was not utilized by exposed personnel. Approximately 75-80% of his time was actually spent insulating during this 11 year period. Thus, the claimant was exposed to asbestos during his 30 years as a pipefitter, especially during his 11 years as an insulator.

The past 5-7 years of the claimant's employment were said to be in the pipe shop repairing regulators. This job involved a limited amount of welding. In addition, parts were cleaned in caustic tanks

and stoddard solvent. Except for the potential of working with parts contaminated with asbestos residue, exposure to asbestos was very limited during this time period.

Exposure to asbestos may lead to the development of cancer of the lungs and digestive tract, asbestosis and mesothelioma. The inhalation of asbestos fibers is associated with interstitial fibrosis and results in a decrease in one's pulmonary function capacity. According to NIOSH the pneumoconioses that lead to diffuse interstitial fibrosis usually present the restrictive pattern of physiological impairment. The restrictive pattern of impairment is characterized by a reduction in lung volumes and ventilatory capacity accompanied by increased air flow resistance. In cases where an asbestos related pneumoconiosis coexists with asthma or chronic bronchitis, the restrictive pattern of impairment may be associated with some element of obstructive lung disease.¹

In summary the claimant, Adrian Duff, alleges that his present pulmonary impairment is associated with his exposure to asbestos while employed as a pipefitter at Armco's Eastern Steel Division. Based on the medical information in the file, it appears that the claimant has a number of physical problems including respiratory impairment. It is also apparent that this impairment is both restrictive and obstructive in nature. Asbestos related diseases have been associated with interstitial fibrosis and the restrictive pattern of physiological impairment. However, in cases where asthma or chronic bronchitis are present the restrictive element may coexist with obstructive impairment. This investigation has demonstrated that the claimant was exposed to asbestos during his employment as a pipefitter, especially during those years in which he was an insulator. However, the extent of exposure is difficult to assess.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Ashworth

Mark Ashworth
Industrial Hygienist

MA/rx

References:

1. NIOSH, Occupational Diseases. A Guide to Their Recognition. DHEW, 1977.

CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTICITY

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