

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

Date: 18-Dec-1996 02:35pm
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TO: See Below

Subject: C-8 INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE FOLLOW-UP

Distribution:

TO: Gregory A Chapman	(CHAPMAGA)
TO: Becky Szakats Dines	(SZAKATBK)
TO: C. June Greenwalt	(GREENWCJ)
TO: JOHN L. HICKMAN, JR.	(HICKJOHN)
TO: BARRY L HUDSON	(HUDSONBL)
TO: PAUL K MATHUR [PK]	(MATHURPK)
TO: ROBERT R. MATTSO	(MATTSORR)
TO: Deborah Sinn McKitten	(MCKITTDs)
TO: YOUNGER L. POWER, M.D.	(POWERYL)
TO: H. DAVID RAMSEY, JR.	(RAMSEY)
TO: Roger J. Zipfel	(ZIPFEL)
TO: JOHN M. MIGLIORE, P.E.	(MIGLIOJM AT A1 AT CSOC)
TO: Frances P. Mulherin	(MULHERFP AT A1 AT JLCL01)
TO: JOANNE M. SMITH	(SMITHJM AT A1 AT CSOC)

RJZ021253

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In my May 7, 1996 letter entitled SUMMARY OF 1995 C-8 BLOOD TESTING, the main action item for the site was to obtain a better understanding of our C-8 exposure routes by conducting job reviews and by examining the work habits of individual employees with unusually high or low C-8 blood levels. This letter presents the results of that effort.

Table 4 of the blood testing summary prioritizes 12 jobs according to the concern about possible C-8 exposure. A high priority would be the result of a relatively high average C-8 blood level or a blood level that appeared to be increasing. These 12 jobs were reviewed in order of their ranking by C. J. Greenwalt, J. L. Hickman and myself. Our procedure was to walk through the job with one or more operators after explaining our purpose to them. After the job reviews were completed, 15 operators were interviewed because their C-8 blood levels were much higher or lower than the average for their jobs. A standard questionnaire was used and is attached. Also attached is a summary of the observations and conclusions for each of the 12 jobs. The names of the operators who assisted with the job reviews are listed, but the identities of the interviewed operators are kept confidential.

Several general conclusions can be made:

- o There are many possible reasons for wide variations in operator C-8 blood levels in a single job. These include differences in neatness, PPE usage, overtime practices, and task patterns.
- o The BTO has already installed a number of important improvements in equipment and engineering controls which should result in lower average C-8 blood levels for several jobs.
- o A number of opportunities exist for doing additional air monitoring or wipe testing that may identify previously unsuspected exposure routes.

The pathforward for BTO and site occupational health personnel is to continue evaluating the possibilities for reducing C-8 exposure that have been identified by these job reviews.

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ATTACHMENT 1.

EMPLOYEE INTERVIEW QUESTIONNAIRE

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TO:

FROM: June Greenwalt
John Hickman

A few weeks ago, all Teflon* employees received a communication describing the results of the 1995 study of C-8 levels in blood. Part of the last paragraph described our pathforward as follows.

"We are now in the process of reviewing the jobs with higher than average C-8 blood levels to see if we can discover any routes of exposure that can be better controlled. We are also talking to operators with blood levels at the upper or lower end of the range for their job with the hope of learning something that could be helpful to everyone."

That last sentence about talking to operators is why you've received this letter. Your C-8 blood level is either higher or lower than that of most other people who work in the same job. We can think of two possible reasons for this: 1) Your work practices are different from those of other operators and this affects your C-8 level, or 2) You do things the same as everyone else does, but your metabolism is somewhat different and so your body eliminates C-8 a little faster or slower.

If the first possibility is true, then we may be able to learn from your experience and discover some way to reduce everyone's exposure to C-8. With that in mind, we would greatly appreciate it if you would take the time to fill out the attached questionnaire. You don't have to answer all the questions. If you need more room, use the back of the questionnaire or use additional sheets of paper. Mail it back to either one of us in B180T. Your response will be kept confidential.

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NAME _____

JOB _____

DATE _____

1. C-8 exposure can be the result of inhaling air containing C-8 or having skin contact with liquids or solids that contain C-8. Where in your job do you think C-8 exposure takes place?

2. Can you think of any tasks that you do in a different way than other operators that may make your C-8 exposure different?

3. Are there any tasks you do more/less frequently than other operators, because of seniority or some other reason?

4. Do you spend more time in a particular location than most other people?

5. Do you use different PPE than other operators?

6. Do you ever get any process materials on your clothing?

7. Do you wash your hands or change your clothes more/less frequently than others?

8. How often do you work overtime, and at what jobs?

9. Can you think of any additional questions we should have asked, or are there any further observations you would like to make?

10. Do you want to talk to us about this questionnaire?

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