

AMERICAN BRAKE SHOE COMPANY

AMERICAN BRAKEBLOK DIVISION

WINCHESTER, VIRGINIA

SURVEY OF LEAD AND DUST EXPOSURES

On November 1 and 2, 1962, a survey was conducted to re-evaluate some of the health hazards associated with the manufacturer of brake linings.

Specific attention was given to the airborne lead and airborne asbestos exposures in the wet and dry compounding areas, the pre-forming areas using dry compound and the block finishing area.

The survey could be characterized as a "spot" or check survey rather than an attempt to cover all operations completely. Lead-in-air samples were obtained only at operations processing lead bearing materials.

General Conclusions:

1. On the basis of the air samples obtained, there was a "borderline" lead exposure in the book press pre-forming department while handling materials containing lead. The operation was visibly dusty and a single dust sample showed a concentration in excess of the hygienic standard of 5 million particles per cubic foot of air. Contemplated controls in the form of exhaust ventilation should be completed.
2. Airborne dust exists at the wet mix compounding area and exceed the hygienic guide of 5 million particles per cubic foot of air during weighing and dumping, but not on a continuous basis.
3. Airborne lead is present in concentrations sufficient to merit additional controls at both the wet compounding and dry compounding line during weigh hopper loading operations.
4. The operator engaged in transferring lead to the storage hoppers is exposed to a serious health hazard from airborne lead.
5. The exhaust from the vacuum transferring apparatus produces a serious health hazard in the compounding area when lead is being transferred and adds generally to dustiness in the area when other compounds are being transferred.



Charles A. Cole, Jr.
Industrial Hygienist
Loss Prevention Department

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