

presence of asbestos mix on floors, equipment, and clothing, and excessive dust generation during scooping and weighing. The levels during three different sampling periods were 8.74 fibers/ml, 3.01 fibers/ml, and 5.19 fibers/ml. These values do not vary significantly from those encountered at more fastidious blok preform operations. This lack of effect of personal variables tends to further indicate that the source of excessive asbestos exposure is common in origin. Remaining, heavy sources of exposure at both book and blok preform are the mix buggies and the manual operations associated therewith.

In relation to the airborne lead results in Appendix No. 2, excursions above the $0.15 \text{ mg}/\mu^3$ Threshold Limit Value were confined to two locations in Blok Preform. One of the locations was blok preform No. 5 (sample No. 25) which, as previously stated, was selected for sampling because of excessive dust generation and poor housekeeping conditions. This operator also worked at Blok Preform No. 3 during the morning hours (sample No. 10) where airborne lead levels were high ($.135 \text{ mg}/\mu^3$) but not above the Threshold Limit Value. It would be advisable to provide this operator with instructions as to proper work habits and the need for consistent good housekeeping.

Throughout the plant, it was observed that only a few people were wearing respirators. In known exposure areas, only one man was so equipped. This operator's respirator was not worn continuously during dusty operations, but was only worn when the operator himself felt that protection was warranted. I inspected the respirator after the operator had deposited it on a dusty ledge, and found it to be dirty, and smudged both inside and out, and the filter was thoroughly caked with asbestos fibers and particulates.

It is imperative that a respiratory protection program be established in the plant whereby all exposed employees are provided with and required to wear approved, properly maintained respiratory protection. This recommendation has been set forth in several previous reports. Although respirators are provided on a voluntary basis within the plant, this is not sufficient since virtually all of the exposed employees remain unprotected. To have any positive or lasting effects the program must be implemented on a mandatory basis. In addition, the employees should be thoroughly instructed in the use of the equipment, and a central maintenance program should be established.