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INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

BORG & BECK • CHICAGO PLANT

BORG WARNER

TO R. L. Kristufek DATE November 28, 1972

FROM J. D. Dresser SUBJECT Asbestos Program

The present limits on asbestos exposure are five fibers longer than five micrometers in length per cubic centimeter. In 1976, this will be reduced to two fibers per cubic centimeter. The asbestos survey done recently by National Loss Control in Department 3 showed readings of 1.54 to 13.5 fibers per cc. Based on these readings the following program must be instituted:

1. All employees in Department 3 and Inspectors must have a special physical examination which includes a 14" by 17" X-ray and a pulmonary function test. This must be done by January 31, 1973, annually thereafter, and on termination or transfer out of the department. The results must be kept for 20 years.

2. Signs must be posted saying, "Asbestos Dust Hazard, Avoid Breathing Dust, Wear Assigned Protective Clothing, Do Not Remain in Area Unless Your Work Requires it, Breathing Asbestos Dust May be Hazardous to Your Health."

3. More complete caution labels must be painted on our waste disposal drums.

4. All employees in Department 3 must be notified that they have been exposed to asbestos dust.

Because many of the readings are over five fibers and the employees in Department 3 change jobs and assembly groups frequently, they must all (except drilling) begin wearing disposable respirators. These respirators cost about 37¢ each in large quantities and can be used only one day. This will cost about $15 per day for respirators.

Where the readings are over ten fibers, special clothing is required plus change rooms, lockers, and laundry service. It is essential that we take immediate corrective action to reduce our readings below ten. The National Loss Control expert thinks that this can be done by immediately instituting a program with frequent vacuuming, especially around the riveting areas. In addition, we should vacuum all incoming shipments as they are opened, and should develop a method to eliminate the slapping operation in Group 1.

From an engineering angle, we should foresee an additional air system to cover all assembly groups such as the one now in use for the drilling operations. This will be required to reduce our count to less than five fibers and to meet the 1976 requirements of two fibers.

Our immediate cost will be additional vacuum cleaners and manpower to operate them and the disposable respirators. Our long range cost will be an additional air system, and a six month monitor by National Loss Control, at a cost of about $600 each six months. + physicals

JDD:cc