PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT

K-2025

Health by Design

54th All-Ohio Safety Congress & Exhibit, April 24, 25, 26, 1984

Richard F. Celeste, Governor

Leonard T. Lancaster, Chairman, The Industrial Commission of Ohio
John A. Pompeii, Superintendent, Division of Safety and Hygiene
Mary E. Horvath, Congress Coordinator

January 20, 1984

Legal Section
The Industrial Commission of Ohio
246 North High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

O.D. 20446-22
Russell Spears, Jr., deceased
Owens-Illinois Company
Columbus, Ohio

Attn: Ms. Judy Spencer

Dear Ms. Spencer:

An occupational disease investigation was conducted by the writer at the Owens-Illinois Incorporated facility, Columbus, Ohio on January 10, 1984. The claimant, Mrs. Ola Jean Spears, has alleged that her husband's carcinoma of the lung was a direct result of his employment at the Owens-Illinois Company. Mr. Spears's death certificate in the claim file indicates that his immediate cause of death was cardio-pulmonary arrest secondary to metastatic lung cancer.

Mr. Spears had worked for Owens-Illinois Incorporated for approximately twenty-nine years. Company personnel records, which were reviewed by the writer on this investigation date, listed Mr. Spears as primarily a forming department employee. Mr. Spears may have at times worked at other job sites within the same company, but only for relatively short periods of time. The forming machines mold molten glass into the proper shapes for television picture tubes.

The relationship between asbestos exposure and subsequent lung cancers is well documented. A major question relative to this occupational disease claim is did Mr. Russell Spears have an occupational exposure to asbestos fibers? The claimant in her affidavit indicates the daily useage of asbeston gloves as a source of the contaminant.

The glass being molded by the forming machines is hot. Molten glass within the melt furnaces is normally within a temperature range of 1600°F - 2200°F. Therefore, thermal insulation (frequently asbestos) is often utilized in the form of curtains, pads, and gloves. Asbestos gloves are still considered by many as the best personal protective device available for protection against excessive heat. Owens-Illinois officials are in the process of researching the feasibility of switching to non-asbestos materials wherever possible. However, an adequate substitute material for gloves has not been found by company personnel as of this date.

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The attached article from the American Industrial Hygiene Association Journal (Volume 42, Number 12, December 1981, pages 870 - 875) indicates that both airborne and ingestive fiber exposures are likely to occur as a result of wearing asbestos gloves. Most of the workplace exposures recorded (in the article) were below the OSHA standard airborne limits, but were in excess of NIOSH recommendations. No agency or scientific organization has yet established an absolutely "safe" level of exposure for human carcinogens.

Respectfully submitted,

Neil E. Marquard
Industrial Hygienist

NEM/rl

Attachment:

AIHA Journal Article