FILE NAME: Ford (FD)

DATE: 1973 Apr 11

DOC#: FD057

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Memo with OSHA Asbestos Directive Attached

PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT

FD-1160

Inter Office

General Parts Division
Saline Plant

April 11, 1973

T. V. McManamon, M. D.

Subject: Asbestos

Reference: My previous communications of 11-20-72, 1-3-73 and 1-10-73 and Industrial Hygiene report by H. Lick of 3-16-73

In the above referenced communications, the O.S.H.A. requirement for performing periodic medical examinations was discussed. It is my understanding from a conversation with you on January 15, 1973, that, per L. Yeach, Dr. Block will recommend at some future date what tests are to be given and will also name the equipment necessary to perform these tests.

I have attached a copy of a program directive which appeared in the April 5, 1973 Bureau of National Affairs. Since we now know that at least one person has been exposed in excess of allowable limits, I am of the opinion that we could be cited.

I would like to suggest that you contact Dr. Block once again in an effort to determine the means for Saline Plant to comply with this portion of the law.

J D Woods

J. D. Woods

jw

cc J. P. McCallum
Asbestos file

8008 0047

PRODUCED BY FORD

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• Medical surveillance would be required when the daily noise dose exceeds 80 percent of the environmental limit.

• The OSHA document would limit the daily noise dose to 90 dBA, but five years after the effective date of the standard, the limit would be lowered to 85 dBA unless unequivocal evidence is developed to show that the lower level would not result in reduced hearing impairments.

Other differences existed between the two documents with respect to certification of audiometric technicians, and changes in the formulae for determining the attenuation characteristics of ear protectors.

Environmental Limit

The existing OSHA noise standard of 90 dBA time weighted average for an eight-hour day should be retained, Hill said. He described a program conducted by duPont which included hearing conservation measures and regular audiometric testing. During the entire program, testing showed no evidence of hearing loss among employees exposed to noise levels below 90 dBA, Hill said.

Dr. Hildyard presented a series of elements that he considered should be included in any noise standard. Environmental limits of occupational exposure to noise should be set and wearing of ear protection should be compulsory wherever the limit is exceeded, he said. Noise levels which exceed the limit should be reduced by engineering procedures where possible. Periodic monitoring of the workplace ought to be required along with preemployment and follow-up audiometric testing with recordkeeping. Employees should be educated in the proper use of personal protective equipment and in the recognition of symptoms of overexposure to noise. Both employers and employees should be disciplined for failure to comply with the standard. Warning signs should be required for those areas which exceed the standard, Dr. Hildyard said.

The existing standard knowingly allows eight to 20 percent of the noise exposed population to suffer some hearing loss, Dr. Van Atta told the committee. While this is not a good standard, a large segment of industry cannot meet even this minimum, and an environmental limit of 85 dBA still would permit a hearing loss to affect 4 to 5 percent of the noise exposed population, he said. The committee should consider three things in developing an environmental limit:

1. Conservation of hearing (whose and by how much).
2. The practical possibility of meeting the environmental limit.
3. The economic impact of the limit on industry.

Other Business

Some 20 written comments were received by the committee and Wold suggested that these be digested or summarized for use by the committee members. Some members objected, preferring to review each comment in its entirety, and the suggestion was dropped.

The committee also requested that OSHA provide data concerning the number of citations issued for alleged violation of the current noise standard. OSHA agreed to do this and also will include the average size of the establishments cited for alleged violations and the decibel levels found.

The next meetings of the advisory committee are scheduled for May 9-10 and May 30-31. Both meetings will be held in Washington, D.C. The main business at the first meeting will be carried on by the subgroups.

Written comments may be filed for the committee's consideration by sending 20 copies to OSHA Office of Standards, Railway Labor Building, 400 First St. N.W., Room 509, Washington, D.C. 20210

Program Directives

OSHA DIRECTIVE SPECIFIES EMPLOYERS MUST OFFER ASBESTOS RULE EXAMINATIONS

Employers who make a good faith offer to provide or make available, at cost to the employer, the medical examination for employees as required in the asbestos standard, are in compliance with the standard according to Occupational Safety and Health Administration Program Directive 200-17 issued on March 16.

The directive is concerned with the medical examination requirements of 1910.93a and supplements the Compliance Operations Manual with special emphasis on Chapters IV, V, VIII, and XIII, and OSHA Program Directive 72-1 and 200-4.

The standard requires and employer to provide or make available at cost to the employer, medical examinations to employees engaged in occupations exposed to airborne concentrations of asbestos fibers. Employees are not required to take the examinations.

If an employee refuses to take the examination, it should be determined if the employer made a good faith offer. If the employer has demonstrated good faith, he is in compliance with the regulations.

An appropriate statement of refusal should be kept by the employer as a record under 1910.93a (j)(6). A written form signed by the employee, to the effect that he will not take a physical examination, would be such an appropriate statement.

Program Directives

OSHA DIRECTS INSPECTORS TO USE ONLY NIOSH CERTIFIED DETECTOR TUBES

Compliance officers were directed to use only detector tubes which come from a batch certified by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, in Occupational Safety and Health Administration Program Directive 73-4 issued on March 12.

The directive was issued to provide OSHA supervisory staff and field personnel with guidelines for the use of detector tubes in the assessment of hazardous atmospheres.

Length of stain detector tubes have been issued for determination of H_2S, SO_2, O_2, and CO_2. OSHA specifications require that the tubes be tested at one-half, one, two, and four times the Threshold Limit Value (TLV) and show an accuracy of 35 percent in the lower ranges and 25 percent in the higher ranges with about 85 percent probability of being within these ranges.

NIOSH has a project to certify detector tubes as being

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