

Robert L. Lembke, M.D.

Oran D. Steffey

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INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE ACTIVITIES - AUGUST, 1978

Communications have been sent to Safety Directors of the Lake Charles, Phenix City, and Ponca City Carbon Black Plants requesting that surveys be made relative to various materials and substances which may be in use in these plants. The purpose of these surveys is to furnish the Medical Division with information which will make it possible to relate potential problems relative to exposure of employees to materials present in the workplace.

A report has been written covering an industrial hygiene inspection of the Ponca City Tank Car Repair Shop. Recommendations were made which covered sand blasting operations, quality of breathing air, protective sand blasting hoods, disposal of various materials resulting from operations in the shops, removal of steam condensate from tank cars used for transporting vinyl chloride, and monitoring recommendations. Various aspects related to recommendations made for these shops were discussed with Mr. F. D. Armstrong, Transportation, Houston.

A meeting of the ORC Occupational Safety and Health Group, which met at the Arlington Hyatt House, Arlington, Virginia, August 9 and 10, 1978, was attended. Some of the subjects which were discussed and of current interest are as follows:

Mr. B. K. Kwon, ORC, discussed the subject of Women in the Workplace: Problems of Resolving EEOC and OSHA Requirements. The real problem appears to be that of removal of any worker from a job because of the danger of health effects on the fetus, i.e. genetic, teratogenic, or nervous system damage. The EEOC is concerned with removal of an individual from a job on the basis of discrimination, i.e. women vs men. The EEOC and OSHA apparently are going separate ways in trying to solve this problem.

Mr. S. Merkle, Project Officer for OSHA, addressed the subject of Standards Completion Program and Generic Pesticides. It appears that OSHA is in the stage of attempting to form a broad base or generic type standard system for materials found in the General Industry Standards of the OSHA regulations. Appendixes would be used to cover such areas as respiratory protection. Supplementary guidelines may be used to cover areas which cannot be written into the broad base standard. The standard would include the action level philosophy and in cases where the action level was exceeded, a written plan covering the various health and safety needs would have to be drawn up. The standard would call for semi-annual

ventilation systems efficiency checks. The medical questionnaire would call for general medical history and personal physical conditions. Training would be required on an annual basis and would cover safety, emergency and protective equipment. There would be a labeling requirement and a Material Safety Data Sheet or health guidelines requirement. Recordkeeping requirements would include the retention of Exposure Monitoring Results for one year, medical records for five years and the Current Mechanical Ventilation Check for one year.

There are many problems inherent in attempting to write a broad base standard as has already been demonstrated by an ORC Task Force Group which has been working on this problem.

Information relative to Monitoring for Hydrogen Sulfide and Carbon Monoxide has been furnished to Mr. Bob Anthony, East Plant Maintenance Engineering.

An interoffice communication has been sent to Mr. Lowell Batov relative to U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Guide 8.13 which deals with Instruction Concerning Prenatal Radiation Exposure. It was recommended that Mr. Batov review the status of female employees of childbearing age working in the Ponca City Refinery in view of requirements set by this Regulatory Guide. Since Cesium-137 is used for density measurement of products in the cokers, we need to define whether we must meet the intent of the regulation.

Information has been furnished to Mr. Dirk Steen, Safety Director of the Ponca City Carbon Black Plant, relative to Respiratory Protection and Breathing Air. This included a copy of the OSHA Regulations 1910.134 - Respiratory Protection and a copy of the communication from Dr. Whetstone dated May 26, 1978, which addresses the subject: OSHA Standard 1910.134 with attachments relative to the medical requirements for those persons required to wear respirators and the Air Quality Requirements Specified for Grade D Breathing Air as described in Compressed Gas Association Commodity Specification G-7.1-1966.

An industrial hygiene inspection has been made of the Phenix City Carbon Black Plant on August 23, 1978. A complete report covering the status of this plant along with appropriate recommendations has been written.

Aid has been given to Mr. A. R. Peck, PED, relative to the subject of odor threshold for chlorine and hydrochloric acid. Caution was expressed in use of levels of odor for safely detecting these materials in the workplace.

Oran D. Staffey
Industrial Hygienist

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