

August 14, 1942

Dr. D. B. Lowe

Case of [REDACTED]
P.R. No. 5579 -1052

Confirming Telephone

An investigation of the above subject reveals that:

1. Mr. [REDACTED] has been employed by Goodrich prior to 1934, left and was re-hired 7/15/1934.
2. He has been engaged in the process of Lead Silicate from 5/19/1942 to 8/2/1942, the latter of which was the last day he has worked with the exception of one day in which he was off, namely July 23 - (Claimed sore feet).
3. Since he was absent for a period of over 7 days since 8/2/42, his record card was referred to the Labor Department.
4. About one week prior to 8/2/42, he told Mr. Miller that his foot hurt and which Mr. Miller assumed was from standing a great deal and not in any way directly associated with materials used in the process in which he was engaged. He definitely made no claim as to cause.
5. Before working in lead silicate operations, he was employed in the same building at Plant 3 - (315) in the washing of synthetic rubber and was absent from 3/14 to 4/23 due to illness, according to his record card.
6. The lead silicate operation consists of:
 - (a) Weighing 30# of lead acetate taken from a drum into a screen box on scales. Drum, box, and scales are inside of a ventilated booth and in which any dust arising is drawn out of the back of the hood and away from the operator.
 - (b) The box is hung on a drum and dissolved with water.
 - (c) Silicate of soda is made up in another drum.
 - (d) There is also a pump on each drum and the solution from the two drums is then pumped into a third drum, mixed and precipitation then takes place.
 - (e) The solution in the third drum is then pumped into an

150 gallon tank and then onto a screen filter to a dryer pan into cake form.

This operation has been carried on for years and has not affected the health of any operators engaged in it. We also never considered the aspect of this process as serious, nevertheless, and perhaps as an extreme safeguard, safety regulations in effect in other bonafide lead operations were applied at the onset of the lead silicate operations and have been in effect ever since.

They consist of:

- (a) Providing and compulsory use of respirators in addition to weighing and dust removal system.
- (b) Furnishing clean coveralls at company expense.
- (c) No eating or tobacco chewing is permitted.
- (d) Sulphur soap to detect any lead deposit on the skin is provided and used.
- (e) Operators are provided with excellent bathing facilities, hot and cold water, towels and double lockers and a 15 minute time allowance, all at company expense.
- (f) Regulations are enforced.

At a recent meeting, Wm. C. Smith, Union Committee man said, he had seen Mr. [REDACTED] the day before and he, [REDACTED], told Mr. Smith that he had just returned from Cleveland and that his doctor there said he had sustained a case of lead poisoning. He [REDACTED] also told Smith that he had not had the clinical reports as yet however.

Conclusions

The writer has observed these operations many times and to the best of my knowledge, and regardless of the opinion we have had as to the relatively minor health hazard, the lead safety rules were always in effect and carried out.

However, [REDACTED] says he occasionally takes his mask off when he "gets too hot".
D.B.S.

Note: During the early stages of synthetic rubber manufacture, benzene was used. Before control could be established several men were poisoned & benzol & Moragan was away from work from 3/14 to 4/23/42. As that time he complained of intense sleepiness & staggering gait. He was under the care of his own physician.
LS:seh
W. L. Schneider
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D.B.S.

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