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Barnes: dust con-
trol for machining
"micarta"

1948



Headquarters Medical Dept.
May 14, 1948

SHARON WORLES
Specialty Transformer Dept.
R. L. Miller, Manufacturing Engr.

Your letter of inquiry to Mr. J. K. Becker about No. 250 micarta has been referred to me for reply. The dust from drilling or cutting this micarta will produce skin irritation in many persons and definite precautions should be taken to avoid exposure to these dusts.

We would recommend that you do all machining work on this micarta in one location, and this location should preferably be segregated from other machining operations. It would be very undesirable to have this work done at a number of different places throughout the plant because of the increased number of persons that would be exposed to the dust.

The machines should be equipped with good local exhaust ventilation so designed that it will effectively carry away all of the cuttings from the machining operations. A dust collector should be provided on this system and it should be of a type which will have a high efficiency for this kind of dust. Some means should be provided to empty the dust collector in such a way that the dust will not be scattered. Cleanliness should be maintained in the department, and it is preferable to use a vacuum cleaner for cleaning up around the machines and floors. Persons working on various machine tools should be equipped with a light-weight impervious apron to prevent scraping the pieces of micarta against their regular clothing. This will help considerably in keeping the dust out of the workers' clothes. Wash room facilities should be readily available to them so they can wash up frequently, if this is necessary. It may be necessary to provide a shower bath, although this will be determined to a considerable extent by the wishes of the employees.

Consideration might be given to the use of wet machining operation. This has been used to a limited extent in some other locations, but in general it has not proven too satisfactory. It does help considerably in minimizing the dust hazard.

In considering the use of this material, it should be remembered that after machining operations are completed other persons may have exposure

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to dust from the material. It is desirable to clean all the dust off of the pieces before shipping them to an assembly department. It is also desirable to remove any rough edges which would be a source of irritation. All these cleaning operations should be done in the area which has been set aside for this work.

I trust this will give you the information you need, but if you have some further question, please let me know.

ECB:y

R. C. Barnes
Industrial Hygiene Engineer

67-100-8811
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