

Wet Compounding:

Airborne samples were obtained for the evaluation of the airborne lead and airborne dust (asbestos) exposures associated with the wet compounding operations.

Conclusions:

1. Airborne dust constitutes a marginal health hazard during the weighing and dumping of asbestos.
2. Airborne dust constitutes a health hazard to the operator during the dumping of the asbestos from the first level hoppers to the second level mixers.
3. A serious health hazard is produced by airborne lead during the weighing operation on the compound lines because of insufficient capture of dust and nearby drafts from open windows.
4. The operator loading the storage bins with the vacuum apparatus is exposed to a serious health hazard when lead compounds are loaded.
5. A serious health hazard is produced in the compounding area due to the discharge from the vacuum loading arrangement when it is loading lead into the storage bin.

Recommendations:

1. Repair the weigh hopper used to transfer asbestos on the wet compounding line. Currently, there are some leaks in the hopper itself, which allow dust to escape during dumping.
2. Review the loading techniques used by the operator weighing asbestos on the wet compounding line and be certain that he is producing no more dust than necessary.
3. Clean and repair the air collection system and ducts on the Lancaster mixers on the wet line.
4. Improve the method of opening and closing the exhaust ducts on the wet mix compounding line. This is now done by hand and some of the exhaust valves are from time to time not properly operated.
5. Provide a Bureau of Mines approved respirator to be worn by the operator of the vacuum apparatus loading the lead into the bin.
6. Provide a means whereby the discharge from the vacuum loading apparatus is exhausted from the building or into an exhaust system duct until the contemplated changes in the hopper loading operations are completed.
7. The windows near the weigh hopper unloading should be kept closed to prevent violent drafts from defeating the purpose of the exhaust hoods.