

4221
INDEXED
FILE: ABRAMS
DECEMBER 1992

East Pittsburgh Works

July 24, 1957

Report of Plant Visit

Industrial Relations
Mr. James McElisass, Safety Supv.

Mr. Aaron Marks, Industrial Relations, Mr. C. H. Chance, Manager

Following is a report of my recent visit to your plant:

1. The ventilation on the micarta tube rollers in Section A-20 needs to be greatly improved so that the visible fumes that are emitted from the tube rollers will be completely collected with the overhead ventilation hood and removed to the outside of the building. The hoods on these tube rollers should be made much easier to adjust so that the workmen are encouraged to move them into the position where they will efficiently collect fumes after the rolls have been placed into the machine.

There was a definite high frequency noise generated in some of these tube rollers that apparently was being caused by the untreated paper under tension rubbing over a stationary metal roll. It is believed that if the metal rolls over which paper is passing would be turning instead of the paper sliding over them that this noise would be eliminated.

2. The circle saw in Section A-20 that is being used for cutting asbestos board should be very much better ventilated in order to collect the asbestos dust and remove it to a dust collector, even though the operator is wearing a dust respirator. The generation of asbestos dust is excessive and is being scattered on the floor causing undesirable housekeeping and possible exposure to surrounding personnel.

It would be highly desirable to use a guard on the circle saw.

3. The ventilation on the solder pot at Col. 21 in Section A-30 was inoperative and should be corrected so that the fumes that are generated will be removed to the outside of the building. It is highly desirable that all such operations be properly ventilated and proper ventilation maintained at all times.

4. The varnish tank at Col. 31 in Section A-30 contains varnish #7036-5. The caution statement on the material card indicates that this material contains a flammable solvent and that vapor should not be breathed, adequate ventilation shall be provided, and contact with the skin should be avoided. The solvent in this varnish is toluol, which is a highly toxic solvent. For this reason local exhaust ventilation should be placed on this dipping operation as well as on adjacent painting operations in order to remove the toxic fumes from the breathing atmosphere of the operator.



5. It is important that the chlorinated vapor degreasers be operated according to the instructions that are given in Process Specification 291654 and Safe Practice Data Sheet D-3. During our last Spring Safety Workshop additional information was given with particular emphasis on the need for proper operation of chlorinated solvent degreasers. Trichloroethylene that is used in these degreasers is a highly toxic solvent and that the odor of this solvent should be not more than slightly detectable, and preferably it should be absent from the breathing atmosphere of the operator of the equipment.

H. Milner Sletcher, Administrator
Industrial Hygiene