

ADLX CORPORATION
INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE SURVEY
FRICTION PRODUCTS GROUP
WINCHESTER, VIRGINIA
APRIL 19-23, 1976

PURPOSE

This Industrial Hygiene survey was conducted to determine the extent of occupational disease exposure to airborne asbestos, lead, and solvent vapors. Recommendations for control are enumerated in the report.

SUMMARY

Of the 48 samples collected for airborne asbestos, thirteen exceeded the present limit of 5 fibers/ml greater than 5 microns in length, and twenty-six including the thirteen noted above, exceeded the 2 fiber limit which is scheduled for adoption by OSHA in July of this year. The majority of the exposures were confined to Book Preform and Blok Preform with lighter excursions observed at the dry line operation in Lower Compounding and at Disc Brake Inspection. Duplicate and triplicate samples were collected at seven of the aforementioned operations which accounts for 14 of the 48 samples. Averaging of the multiple samples revealed 8 hour time weighted levels at three blok preform units of from 5 to 6 fibers/ml. Fiber counts of multiple sample locations in Book Preform revealed average levels of 4 to 5 fibers/ml. Historically, book preform levels have been generally lower than those observed during this survey. The excursions were not anticipated since the installation of the hoods around the preformers should have significantly reduced the fiber counts. The increase may be attributable to normal ambient variations, but it is likely that housekeeping and excessive reliance on the systems by the operators are also factors. In addition, the mix buggies are not yet ventilated, and floated fibers are clearly visible where the operators lean over and scoop mix from the buggies.

The two short term samples taken from the dry line operator in Lower Compounding reveal that this operator is overexposed if we observe the 2 fiber limit. This obviously arises during loading of the mix buggies from the hoppers and to a lesser extent during shifting and transfer of the wheeled containers.