

ABEX CORPORATION
INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE SURVEY
FRICTION PRODUCTS GROUP
LINCOLN, ONTARIO
FEBRUARY 10-14, 1975

PURPOSE

This Industrial Hygiene survey was conducted to determine the presence and extent of occupational disease exposures throughout the plant and to make recommendations for controlling or eliminating the hazards encountered.

SUMMARY

A total of 30 airborne dust samples were collected at various operations throughout the plant for lead and asbestos. As indicated in Appendix No. 1, sixteen of the asbestos samples exceeded the permissible limit of 2 fibers/ml. The areas involved included the Finish Department, Blok Press Department, Blok Preform, Upper Compounding, and Blok Inspection at the rear of the new finish area. Highest levels were obtained from Blok Preform during the collection of short term samples (15-30 minutes). Reducing the sampling time was required because of excessive dust loading on the filters which prevents accurate fiber counts.

Analyses of collected samples revealed nine locations where airborne lead concentrations were excessive. These locations included Blok Preform, the Finish Department, Blok Press, Reclaim de-riveting, and the sorting station in Reclaim Reception. Coincident with the asbestos counts, the highest lead levels were observed in Blok Preform where generation of airborne dust was clearly excessive.

The numbers of noisy locations and the extent of noise generated, paralleled the measurements taken during our previous survey of January 7-11, 1974. Although some employees were wearing hearing protective devices, their use is not mandatory, and several employees, especially in the finishing areas remain unprotected. In addition, audiometric testing is still not conducted for new and/or noise exposed personnel to identify those at risk with significant hearing loss.

