

FILE NAME: Goodyear (GY)

DATE: 1949 Mar 17

DOC#: GY006

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Government Inspection Results

DIVISION OF SAFETY & HYGIENE
INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION OF OHIO

March 17, 1949

Mr. James E. Fluker,
Superintendent,
Division of Safety &
Hygiene,
Columbus 15, Ohio

Re: Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co.,
Akron, Ohio

On February 11 a visit was made to the above named company at the request of Jack Kidney, Safety Director and Mr. Fickes, Assistant Safety Director, to determine whether or not a definite hazard existed at the welding operations being performed in the maintenance department of the company's rim plant. Contact was made with Messrs Kidney, Fickes, E. F. Pierce, Superintendent of the rim plant, and W. S. Parker, Chairman of the union safety committee.

There are four men engaged in the various types of welding operations in an area used for maintenance work. The company maintains four shifts for this work, thus allowing each man to spend about 75% of his time welding on each six hour shift.

According to the company's records the four men have used a total of five hundred and twenty eight pounds of rods. This includes both bare, coated and special braising rods. This is an extremely small amount of rods used by the four men and we, of the Division of Safety and Hygiene, have never encountered any health hazard when welding operations have been performed by one man in a large area when general ventilation is maintained at all times, such as in this area.

When the writer surveyed this welding area the welder was not working on a welding job, but he did cut some sheets of galvanized metal so that the writer could see just how the fumes traveled. Fumes were being dispersed into the atmosphere and no high concentrations were being developed other than directly at the point of cutting. By inhaling zinc fumes, zinc shakes are sometimes produced in certain individuals. If welding on zinc coated materials is performed continuously there would, of course, be need for local exhaust. The welder stated that he sometimes cuts boiler plate and, of course, in this type operation he would be exposed to iron oxide fumes. Such fumes are not considered toxic, however, they may produce some nose and throat irritation.

Due to good general ventilation any nitrous oxide fumes or gases that may be formed in the welding are would be of no hygienic importance. These two gases are detrimental to health if the welding is performed in a confined space, such as inside of tanks without proper ventilation. There is a tank type ventilating unit manufactured by the Mine Safety Appliance Company which could be used for local ventilation when fumes are being generated in the cutting of galvanized iron or boiler plate, therefore, we recommend the use of a tank of this type or its equivalent for the removal of any irritating or nuisance type fumes.

Enclosed is a copy of a letter from the Trudeau Foundation which is self explanatory, and may help in alleviating any thought of possible silica hazards in welding.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Hanna
Safety Advisor

DH:ha

8