

June 10, 1957

Mr. George H. Calhoun
Division of Safety & Hygiene
Columbus, Ohio

Re: O.D. 347778-22
Dessie L. West

Dear Mr. Calhoun:

On May 21, 1957, the writer visited the Yarnstedt Division of General Motors Corp., 200 Georgesville Road, Columbus, Ohio, to make a technical investigation as to the hazards involved in the above claim.

This company manufactures automotive parts.

The claimant is working at the present time. At the time of the accident related in the claim, the claimant was wiping the drip off of automotive parts after they had been painted in the spray booth. She worked about ten feet from the spray booth. There was an air movement past her into the spray booth.

This company has three large spray booths which spray lacquer on the parts as they pass through the booth hanging on a chain conveyor. The electrostatic method of painting is used whereby the spray heads and the part to be painted are electrically charged so as to divert the atomized lacquer on the part. After the pieces are moved about 75 feet they are taken off of the spray booth conveyor line and hung on a chain type dryer.

The company has an Ajax paint stripping machine in the area. This consists of a series of tanks, the first of which contains molten sodium hydroxide at approximately eight hundred degrees Fahrenheit. This tank is followed by a series of water washes and acid bath, which is followed by additional water washes. The Ajax machine is located about 50 to 60 feet from where the claimant stood at the time of the accident. The Ajax machine is well ventilated. There is a fan located immediately above the sodium hydroxide tank. This removes the heat produced and in doing so carries away any fumes of paint which would be produced at the time. The fumes coming from the acid tank are also removed in the same manner. There was no indication that caustic fumes get into the atmosphere as the exhaust system is well engineered.

The area where the claimant was working was located about ten feet from the spray booth. A large volume of air passes by the area where the claimant was and into the spray booth. There is some lacquer thinner in the coating at the time when the parts pass the place where the claimant worked.

The writer is certain that no fumes from the Ajax paint stripping machine get into the atmosphere at the location where the claimant was at the time of the accident.

Very truly yours,

Lester M. Merritt
Industrial Hygiene Engineer