

FILE NAME: US Gypsum (USG)

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Toronto, Dept. 270, W. F. Howe

Hagersville, D. Vanni

Attached Authority Request



Attached is an authority request for the purchase and installation of a 360 CF Pangborn dust collector for the Joint Cement department.

The manufacture of Joint Cements requires the mixing of several dry ingredients to produce a variety of product formulations. The three main products produced are Perf-A-Tape and Sheetrock Joint Compounds and Durabond on the one machine and Read-Mix compound on the other machine. The dumping, mixing and packaging of these ingredients creates a serious dusting problem in this area. The present 5000 C.F.M. Pangborn dust collector does not have the capacity or flexibility to adequately control dusting at all points around the production equipment especially when both machines are in operation.

This collector dates back to the thirties and was transferred from another department in 1956 when the present facilities to manufacture Perf-A-Tape Joint Cement were installed. In 1965 equipment to manufacture Read-Mix Joint Compounds was added to this department but no allowances were made for extra dust collection. The Read-Mix vent system was hooked into the existing collector system. In 1967 the manufacture of Durabond began and again no extra facilities were provided for dust collection. To prevent contamination of products as Durabond and Perf-A-Tape are not compatible the collector cannot be used for the manufacture of Durabond as well as the other joint compounds. Hence when Durabond is being made the collector is by passed and all dust exhausted to atmosphere.

One of the main ingredients used in all joint cement compounds is Asbestos which is very hazardous to personnel if not properly controlled. If breathed in sufficient quantities it can create a lung ailment known as Asbestosis.

The Ontario Dept. of Labour, on the recommendation of its inspectors who have conducted several dust count tests in the Joint Cement area, has informed the plant that the asbestos dust level in this work area is too high and that dust collection facilities to control asbestos dust in the area must be improved if we are to continue in production.

It is therefore necessary to purchase and install a 12,500 C.F.M. dust collector in the Joint Cement area.

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The new collector will have the capacity to adequately handle all dust producing points in the two operations. The present collector will be used only for the manufacture of Durabond. By using this collector only for Durabond and the new collector for all other products there will be no contamination of products and any material collected can be recycled rather than exhausted to the atmosphere which is the present practice.

The health hazard of asbestos dust will be eliminated which is necessary for the prevention of lung ailments among workers, and all directives of the Ontario Dept. of Labour, as per attached report, will have been met.

Chicago Engineering assistance is requested, to verify additional steel structures selected for the support of the new 10 ton collector.

For J.V.
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DV/jb