PLAINTIFF'S
EXHIBIT
BRK-178

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April 7, 1983

Legal Section
Industrial Commission of Ohio
246 North High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Attn: Judy Spencer

RE: OD 19642-22
Judy E. McCormick
Packard Electric Division
Warren, Ohio

Dear Ms. Spencer:

At your request, this report has been prepared based on information provided in the facsimile file and on additional information obtained during two visits to Plant 8 of the Packard Electric Division, GMC, located in Warren, Ohio.

This claimant alleges that her condition, which was diagnosed as acute bronchitis, was caused by exposures to "fumes" which were generated from rubber molding operations. Ms. McCormick operated any of several St. Lawrence Presses in Dept. 836 of Plant 8 from June 1, 1982 until July 22, 1982, when she became ill. She returned to the same job, following her illness, on August 16, 1982 and worked there until August 23, 1982. On this date the claimant, for shift preference reasons, returned to the North River Road Plant of Packard where she had worked as an assembler for approximately 14 years prior to transferring to Plant 8 in June of 1982. The claimant, although transferring back to the North River Road Plant, continues to work as a molder, molding plastic rather than rubber parts. Apparently, following her transfer, the claimant has suffered no additional health problems.

Air contaminants associated with some rubber molding operations which can cause bronchitis include ammonia and carbon disulfide. On February 15, 1983, representative personal air samples were obtained on two St. Lawrence Press Operators for the determination of employee exposure to these possible air contaminants. Following are the monitoring methods utilized to obtain these samples:

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Ammonia - Personal sampling pumps equipped with acid-washed silica gel adsorption tubes as the collection media.

Carbon Disulfide - Personal sampling pumps equipped with charcoal adsorption tubes as the collection media.

Following are the results of monitoring, as reported by the lab:

Employee/Operation	Air Contaminant	TWA Exposure (ppm)	ACGIH TLV (ppm)
E. Jackson (Presses Nos. 5 & 6)	Ammonia	<0.23	25.0
	Carbon Disulfide	<0.11	10.0
M. Clouse (Presses No. 3 & 4)	Ammonia	<0.23	25.0
	Carbon Disulfide	<0.09	10.0

TWA - Time Weighted Average
TLV - Threshold Limit Value
ppm - parts per million parts of air
ACGIH - American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists

Briefly reviewing the preceding results of monitoring, it may be observed that the concentrations of ammonia and carbon disulfide sampled at the St. Lawrence Presses were below the minimum detection limits of the analytical methods and should not pose a health problem. It should be noted that these molding operations, which had been located on the second floor when the claimant operated them, were moved to the fourth floor in October of 1982. Comparing these two areas, one would expect more of a problem with air contaminants at the new location than the old. When these operations were on the second floor they were in an area with a high ceiling, at least 20 feet, and numerous fans to disperse any fumes generated. At present they are located in an area with a low ceiling (approximately 10 feet), and with no fans or local exhaust ventilation. Despite the fact that the buildup of air contaminants would be more likely in the new area than the old, where the claimant worked, the possible contaminants were not detected at the present location of the St. Lawrence Presses.

In addition to monitoring conducted by the Division, a company industrial hygienist in 1979, monitored the St. Lawrence Molding Presses for possible exposures to oil mist and total particulate. Concentrations measured at that time ranged between 0.25 mg/M^3 and 0.45 mg/M^3, well below the TLVs for oil mist (5.0 mg/M^3) and total particulate (10.0 mg/M^3).

In addition to possible exposures from air contaminants in the workplace, it should be noted that this claimant, according to her foreman in Department 836, was a cigarette smoker. However, he was unable to state the degree to which the c.imant practiced this habit. The effects of the use of tobacco should n t be discounted when considering the possible cause of this claimant's condition.

Carbon disulfide was initially thought to be a possible contaminant at these molding operations, because in addition to bronchitis, exposures to this chemical have been associated with depression and gastritis, symptoms which were diagnosed in the claimant along with acute bronchitis. Monitoring for this material has indicated that its presence is below the detectable limits of the method. In addition ammonia was not detected and company monitoring has indicated that oil mist and total particulates are well within the acceptable limits. Although these possible air contaminants were either not detected or existed at acceptable levels, it should be pointed out that emissions from rubber molding operations can be very complex in nature. Inasmuch as this claimant has stated that she never had previously suffered from acute bronchitis and her symptoms arose after being on the rubber molding job for only six weeks, it would appear that her illness was job related. It is possible that this claimant's illness may have been caused by a sensitive reaction to low concentrations of air contaminants from her work, possibly being aggravated by her reported cigarette smoking.

Threshold Limit Values refer to airborne concentrations of substances and represent conditions under which it is believed that nearly all workers may be repeatedly exposed day after day without adverse effect. Because of wide variations in individual susceptibility, however, a small percentage of workers may experience discomfort from some substances at concentrations at or below the threshold limit. A smaller percentage may be affected more seriously by aggravation of a pre-existing condition or by development of an occupational illness.

Sincerely,

Donald B. Meeker

Donald B. Meeker
Industrial Hygienist

DBM:ceg