



September 24, 1985

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

Re: O.D. 22724-22
Judi Jackson
Fisher Body
Mansfield, Ohio

Attention: Judy Spencer

Dear Ms. Spencer:

Visits were made to Fisher Body Mansfield on May 9 and May 23, 1985, to gather information on the above claim. Jill Brickley, Workmens Compensation Administrator, was interviewed.

The claimant is diagnosed as having inhalation laryngitis and bronchitis.

The claimant's medical and work history is in the facsimile file. Note the two pack a day smoking history.

This report is delayed because information as to ventilation in the salvage area did not arrive. This information is presumably not available.

The claimant's description of the salvage operation was confirmed by Mrs. Brickley. Mrs. Brickley stated that the salvage operation was discontinued as was done by the claimant. The salvage work stations have been moved and ventilation changes made.

The claimant's job of salvage repairman was confirmed by personnel files.

When electric welding is done using zinc oxide rod on zinc coated steel; zinc oxide fume will be generated. If the employees breathing zone atmosphere is exhausted continuously and replaced by fresh uncontaminated air, then there will be no zinc oxide exposure. A recreation of the claimant's work station and operation is impossible.

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Some exposure to the claimant, of zinc oxide fume, is reasonable during the salvage operation. The concentration and duration cannot be recreated.

Health Effects - Zinc Oxide¹

Zinc oxide fume exposure may produce metal fume fever. Additional symptoms include dryness and irritation of the throat, sweet taste, cough and chest tightness. Hours later chills, fatigue, frontal headache, low back pain, cramps, nausea and vomiting may follow exposure.

Metal fume fever has been reported at concentrations below 5 mg/M³. Five milligrams per cubic meter is the OSHA permissible exposure limit.² Individual susceptibility would account for the reaction previously noted.

Conclusions

The claimant's exposure to zinc oxide fume during the salvage operation is reasonable. A cause and effect relation to the exposure and diagnosis is plausible.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Wilder

Richard Wilder
Industrial Hygienist

RW:gjb

References:

1. Chemical Hazards of the Workplace, Proctor and Hughes, 1978.
2. Documentation of the TLV's, ACGIH, 1983.