11/13

Johns-Manville

Correspondance Interne
Internal Correspondence

A: G.L. Swallow, GHQ 1-06 Date: October 13, 1978

Division: E.G. Stevens

Copies: file



Subject: VISIT OF TONEY RICKARDS - OCT. 9/78
ROCHDALE, U.K.
OF TURNER - NEWALL

I had a very interesting talk with Toney about I.H. in the U.K., and in particular the Textile dust levels and the asbestos measuring methods.

They at present allow excursions above 2.0 F/cc for short periods, but their four (4) hour sample must not be above 2.0 F/cc. They sample at the rate of 0.5 liters/min, thus their 240 minute sample is 120 liters of air. They are using the U.K, reticule, (Walton & Beckett) the new round reticule. They also use a 25 mm diameter filter.

They sample each employee four (4) times a year. This is a personal sample of four (4) hour duration. The operators get to ask: 'why they are not being sampled', if the hygienist is a little late in sampling one of the employees. All sampling by membrane filter is personal; they have a portable Royco which they use for quick evaluation of area dust levels, modification to equipment and in recording a dust level for each segment in a method study.

Rochdale Textile plant is old, say 200 years. Equipment is old and textile working practices have been past on from one generation to another - hard to change. They have 100 old cards - this gives you some idea of the size of the operation. Their Twisters are the dustiest operation , cards next and weaving the cleanest.

There is a national evaluation of the present method of measuring asbestos fibre, and the TLV of 2.0 F/cc. Toney expects that the result will be a proposal of 1.0 F/cc as a compromise.

../2

Turner & Newall are presently working on a system where a TV camera and a computer will count the fibres on a prepared glass slide made from a membrane filter. This work is being carried on in conjunction with a university, and is expected to be functional within a year.

It is felt that once such an instrument is operational, then a study of just what is to be considered a respirable fibre, will be made. This should help define the relationship between fibre counts and health problems.

Toney spoke of Sid Speil and Jim Leineweber and would like to be remembered to them.

E.G.S.