FILE NAME: Abex (ABX)

DATE: 1963 May 9

DOC#: ABX040

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Letter from Liberty Mutual to American BrakeBlok RE Accident Prevention Visit

LIBERTY MUTUAL
INSURANCE COMPANY
HOME OFFICE BOSTON
The Company that stands by you

ROANOKE, VIRGINIA
LOSS PREVENTION DEPARTMENT

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PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT
AB-42

May 9, 1963

Mr. Charles Mallory, Works Manager
American Brakeblok Division
American Brake Shoe Company
Winchester, Virginia

Re: ACCIDENT PREVENTION VISIT APRIL 25, 1963

Dear Mr. Mallory:

Mr. Marion L. Jones, Loss Prevention Manager, and I appreciated the opportunity to visit with Mr. W. H. Baker, Safety Director, on the above date.

The main purpose of our visit was to review the Industrial Hygiene REport with Mr. Baker as the opportunity to review this report had not presented itself during an earlier visit. Mr. Baker indicated that considerable effort had already been made in reducing the health exposures to the employees. The improvements include repairing the defective weigh hopper, replacing gaskets on hopper discharge points, exhausting vacuum exhausts from building, and increasing the effectiveness of dry line discharge exhaust.

In continuing progress in reducing health hazards, Mr. Baker indicated that local exhaust is planned for the asbestos dry mix line. Until these plans are carried out, it is felt that the employees working in this area should be provided with a suitable respirator to minimize the airborne asbestos exposure. In addition, Mr. Baker indicated that steps are being taken to educate employees in the opening and closing of exhaust ducts on the wet mix compounding line. Several of the exhausts were found open, wasting exhaust and decreasing the effectiveness of the exhaust in this area.

Following our review of the Industrial Hygiene Report, the following items were discussed with Mr. Baker.

MATERIAL HANDLING - SHIPPING DEPARTMENT

In the past, Mr. Charles A. Cole, Safety Engineer, and Mr. Baker had investigated the material handling in the Shipping Department in an effort to minimize accident exposures in this operation. Mr. Baker indicated the current procedure for filling an order is to remove the pallet and place it on the floor and the stock taken from the pallet. By doing this, employees in this area do not have to work from an elevated area.

However, it was pointed out that stock is placed on the pallets from an elevated position. In doing this, the employees ride up the lift. Mr. Baker stated that he felt this system was effective.

SAFEGUARDING MACHINE OPERATIONS - DRILLING

This is another accident exposure investigated by Mr. Cole and Mr. Baker. Several suggestions have been made as to guarding the drills, but difficulty has been found in providing an adequate guard for the turning drill head.

Mr. Baker indicated that employee instruction through supervision has been effective to control this exposure. Should the writer obtain information concerning other techniques of physically guarding this operation, the information will be sent to you.

Your attention is directed to the attached Recommendation Sheet.

Very truly yours,

Lee O. Gaskins
Safety Engineer

LOG/nfh

cc: Mr. W. H. Baker, Safety Director
Mr. D. K. Rennie, Vice President
Mr. G. A. Riley, Eastern District Safety Supervisor

SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS

LIBERTY MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY
The Company that stands by you

AMERICAN BRAKEBLOK DIVISION
WINCHESTER, VIRGINIA

REC. 63-1 HOIST MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

A hoist with a defective cable was found over the alkaline tank in the plant. This defective cable indicates that the hoist maintenance program in the plant needs to increase its effectiveness. It is recommended that the hoist maintenance program be reviewed in an effort to eliminate similar conditions in the future.

REC. 63-2 ASBESTOS DRY MIX LINE - ASBESTOS EXPOSURE

It is recommended that the employees who work in this area be provided with an approved type respirator until such time that local exhaust sufficiently reduces the airborne asbestos exposure in this department.

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