FILE NAME: Kentile (KEN)

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DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Confidential Memo to Distribution RE Chicago Trip for Air Sampling and Inspection of In-Plant Environment

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

April 7, 1978

To: Distribution

From: S. J. Sergi

Subj: Trip to Chicago for CTPV Sampling and Inspection of In-Plant Environment

The purpose of this trip was two-fold: (1) to take air samples with special filters in selected areas and have them analyzed for chrysene; (2) to inspect the Chicago operation since their last asbestos counts were very close to 2 fibers per milliliter of air.

I. Sampling for Chrysene was as follows:

Wednesday, April 5, 1978

Line #5 - 7 hrs. area sample on mottle platform over the sheeter. The casette was suspended in a fumy area.

Line #5 - 7 hrs. personal sample of Banbury man, K. Gawelek, #166.

Line #6 - 7 hrs. personal sample of Banbury man, M. Taylor, #177.

Line #7 - 7 hrs. personal sample of Banbury man, W. Smith, #164.

Thursday, April 6, 1978

Line #5 - 6 hrs. area sample on mottle platform over the sheeter. The casette was suspended in a fumy area.

Line #5 - 6 hrs. personal sample of Banbury man, K. Gawelek, #166.

The samples were delivered to Mr. H. White of Alar Engineering Corp. in order to expedite the analyses.

II. Inspection

General Statement

Kentile's operations require bag opening for weighing and replenishing, addition of solid materials on top of powdered material in open buckets, movement and sudden stops of buckets, emptying of buckets into banbury, weighing of dusty materials such as pigments, stabilizers and stabilizing resins and the transfer of these weighed materials into an open bucket, screw feeding of limestone and asbestos, shoveling dust scrap from the floor into open buckets, mottle crushing and spreading, etc.

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PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT KEN-S08

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and Inspection of In-Plant Environment

All of the above are sources of air borne dust or asbestos, or both. The only mechanical control that is available for minimizing air borne particles is the exhaust system. The bucket exhaust hoods which become partially effective only when the buckets are in place. The exhaust at the Banbury and the future installation of exhausts at the pigment tables. Assuming that the effectiveness of the exhaust was optimum, this would still not be enough. The second and last control available is the working practices of the employees. Without constant policing this cannot be depended on. Other possibilities to alleviate the dust and asbestos problems are (1) automatic feeding of asbestos. The main problem with this has been inability to ship in bulk and inaccurate weights; but Mr. B. Ramundo states that Johns-Manville has a system whereby they combine asbestos and limestone to overcome the problems. If in the Johns-Manvile system the ratio of lime weight to asbestos weight is 60/40 or higher, then the AC/Lime ratio variation needed in production would not be a problem. This should be explored further. (2) Obtain bagged asbestos in weights that would not require cutting the bag. Everyone knows how much good this will do. (3) Conduct carefully planned NAT experiments once a week. Very little is known about production and field performance of this type of product. Why not run one of our regular products for two hours each week and let it go out into the field in specially coded boxes. In a discussion with Mr. E. Raye his suggestion is well taken to run NAT with our simplest type formula and operation; i.e., NM line. Considering that if the asbestos standard, which is now at 2 fibers per ml of air, should drop to the 1/2 fiber per ml of air, there would be a forced mad scramble to produce tile without asbestos. Why not start now. A new design to satisfy sales should be a goal. But let's not wait for that to run NAT. Let's start running it on a small scale on some of our regular products.

Until one of the above three possibilities for alleviating dust can be accomplished, it is suggested that an OSHA committee of three persons be formed in each plant and that these committees become totally familiar with the problems and requirements and that they assume responsibility for the conditions in their respective plants.

The conditions both in Chicago and Brooklyn are not good. The OSHA committees, if approved, should start working immediately.

R. J. Sergi

ejc
cc: Miss C. W. Kelly
Messrs. J. L. Kolcyski
B. Ramundo, E. Gamble
W. Peyton, V. Zizzo

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