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Ministry of Health



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Ontario

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Ministry of
Health

January 9, 1975

Mr. P.C. Milner
Works Manager
Abex Industries of Canada Ltd.
(American Brakelok Division)
50 Colborne Street
Lindsay, Ontario

Dear Mr. Milner:

Enclosed is a copy of the Field Visit Report prepared by the undersigned following a visit to your company on December 11, 1974.

The Directions suggested at the end of the report are for issue to you by the Ministry of Labour's Industrial Safety Officer.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "G.S. Rajhans".

G.S. Rajhans, P. Eng.
Specialist - Dust
Occupational Health Engineering

GSR:gb
Encl.

SPNY 001350



OHPB 410

MINISTRY OF HEALTH
OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH PROTECTION BRANCH

FIELD VISIT REPORT

965-4066

Date: December 23, 1974
From: G. S. Rajhans, P. Eng.

Client: Abex Industries of Canada Ltd.
(American Brakeblok Division)
Address: 50 Colborne Street
Lindsay, Ontario

Contacts:

Mr. P. C. Milner, Works Manager

Hazard: ASBESTOS

Requested by: OHPB
Accompanied by: Mr. C. Rhodes, OHL
Dr. G. Bragg
Date of Visit: December 11, 1974
Copies to:
Dr. V. L. Tidey
Mr. J. McNair (3)
Dr. J. Vingilis
Mr. H. Wall
Mr. P. C. Milner ✓

Abstract:

The above mentioned company was first visited by the writer in the early part of this year. Following the visit an air sampling was requested. Air sampling results were available in March 1974. No follow-up could be done until this visit.

This report describes and comments on the observations made during the two visits.

* * * * *

The above mentioned company has been described in detail by Dr. Verma in his report dated February 6, 1973. The following are my observations:

Compounding Section: There has been a slight change in the local mechanical exhaust for the asbestos dumping operation since Dr. Verma's visit. The canopy is now enclosed on the three sides. The face velocity is about 200 fpm resulting in an air flow of 1170 cfm. The last fibre counts at this operation have ranged from 1.0 to 1.6 fibres per cc (see the lab report No. 15,810 dated March 25, 1974).

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1. Employee working at the mezzanine floor was wearing an approved respirator.

2. Other local mechanical exhaust at this floor appears to be adequate.

3. Breeders are still without adequate local mechanical exhausts. However, according to Mr. Milner the company is working on them.

There is a back drafting hood 23" x 13" for weighing of lead at the second floor. The top and two sides of the hood are enclosed with a face velocity of 180 fpm which is considered to be adequate.

An excessive amount of asbestos dust is produced when "Lodige" mixer is started. The lab report dated March 25, 1974 shows a count of 2.4 fibres/cc higher than the TLV of 2 fibres/cc.

The dry mix discharge from "Lodige" is provided with a down draft rectangular hood 36" x 8" exhausting at the rate of 400 cfm.

Preform Machines: The two preform machines are provided with hoods for dumping and loading operations. These hoods are 18" x 9" each exhausting at the rate of 900 cfm. However, there is no hood for weighing and hand scooping.

The men working at these machines wear respirators. The fibre counts at these machines have been low.

Rolling machines: There is no local mechanical exhaust for dumping of mix into the hopper for the rolling machine. A small amount of asbestos dust was found to be disseminating into the general area.

A new hand roll machine was in operation during the visit. According to Mr. Milner this machine has been in operation for about 6 months due to a new contract and is not expected to run for more than 3 months. There is no local mechanical exhaust for the machine. The man does not wear a respirator.

Finishing Department: This department has several saws, grinders, and drills. Some of those checked for local mechanical exhausts are as follows:

NAME OF OPERATION OR EQUIPMENT	TYPE OF HOOD (DIMENSION)	FACE VELOCITY FPM	AIR VOLUME CFM
Do all Band Saw (Cutting brake lining strip)	Back drafting (4" x 3")	800	67
Strip I.D. Grinder* (18" wheel)	Back drafting (3" x 6")	600	75
Strip O.D. Grinder*	Down draft (12" x 3")	800	200
Radius Roller	no exhaust		
Strip Drill #1	Down draft (5" x 6")	800	167

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NAME OF OPERATION OR EQUIPMENT	TYPE OF HOOD (DIMENSION)	FACE VELOCITY FPM	AIR VOLUME CFM
Strip Drill #2	Down draft (5" x 6")	800	167
Strip Drill #3	Flexible duct (4" diameter)	600	50
Strip Drill #4	"	"	50
Strip Drill #5	"	500	45
Avey Block Drill	Enclosed and exhausted	"	"
Table saw (Block)	Flexible duct (4" dia.)	1200	100
Block I.D. Grinder	3/4 enclosed (13" x 7")	800	500

Comments:

1. A total of five directions were suggested in Dr. Verma's report dated February 6, 1973. Out of the five directions, No. 1 and 5 should be considered to be complied with. The company is working on the other three directions. Two additional directions are suggested in this report.
2. There is an immediate need for proper and improved local mechanical exhausts for the kneaders.
3. The "Lodige" mixer should be provided with adequate dust control measures to control the dust dissemination.
4. Brushing and dry sweeping are still used to clean the equipment.
5. The use of compressed air is widespread and frequent. This should stop immediately. The company should consider installing a clothes cleaning station.
6. The number of damaged bags should be reduced to a minimum.
7. The existing exhaust hood for the "Dual Saw" is not very effective. A considerable amount of fibres escapes into the general area.

Directions to be Issued:

1. Adequate local mechanical exhausts shall be provided at the Kneaders (see Dr. Verma's report dated February 6, 1973).
2. Adequate local mechanical exhausts shall be provided at the charge and discharge of the "dry mix line" (see Dr. Verma's report dated February 6, 1973).
3. Housekeeping shall be improved and maintained at a high level in the compounding section (see the above referred report).
4. Adequate dust control measures shall be provided at the "Lodige" mixer to reduce the dissemination of asbestos dust to a minimum.
5. Adequate local mechanical exhaust shall be provided at "Dual Saw".
6. The man working at the hand roll machine shall be provided with an approved respirator.

Recommendation:

Air sampling for asbestos should be done on a regular basis.

GSR:SY

G. S. Rajhans
G. S. Rajhans, P. Eng.