Minutes of the Asbestos Textile Institute
Air Hygiene and Manufacturing Committee



In Attendance:



W. C. Atkinson	Johns-Manville Corp., Manville, N. J.
P. D. Cannon	Johns-Manville Corp., Manville, N. J.
H. M. Jackson	Johns-Manville Corp., New York City
A. E. May	Keasbey & Mattison Co.
J. L. Mitchell	Southern Asbestos Co.
J. E. Palm	Raybestos-Manhattan, Inc., Manheim, Pa.
R. B. Smith	Raybestos-Manhattan, Inc., North Charleston, S. C.

Guest: Mr. Maurice LaChance - Thetford Industrial Clinic
Thetford Mines, Quebec, Canada

The following items were discussed:

1. Dust Sampling

Mr. Hugh Jackson reported on the progress of the tests that Johns-Manville Corporation is conducting to establish a correlation between the Standard and Midget Greenberg-Smith Impingers. In the past, the two impingers have been used interchangeably. The tests to date made by J-M indicate that counts made with the Midget Impinger are running slightly higher than counts made with the Standard Impinger. The tests are made in the plant, in areas in which the dust count will range from 3 to 5 m.p.p.c.f.t. Three technicians are counting the slides in an effort to reduce any errors in counting technique.

Mr. LaChance reported that a few years ago similar comparisons were made by J-M in Canada and the Q.A.M.A. and that the results checked within 2 - 3%. These tests were conducted in areas having relatively high dust counts.

Mr. Jackson stated that the U. S. Rubber Company is cooperating in the testing program and that any additional participants would be welcome. Mr. LaChance stated that he would be glad to participate.

2. Continuous Dust Sampling

Mr. Jackson reported on the results of tests made with a continuous sampling and recording instrument in cooperation with the U. S. Public Health Service. It has been found that the workers actions greatly influence the dust counts and that after a short time a correlation could be established between the dust count and the worker.

Mr. Palm reported that they have recently taken dust counts in areas in which the windows are open and find that the counts are higher than those taken in the same area with the windows closed. This was discussed by the group and the following points were brought out:

1. Dust hoods are not as effective when windows are open because of increased cross drafts.
2. When windows are open the humidity is usually higher which causes a slight reduction in dust collector capacity.
3. Open windows create drafts which pick up dust that has settled on horizontal surfaces such as roof trusses, machines, etc.

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3. Industrial Health

Mr. Mitchell asked if it was possible to distinguish between rock dust and asbestos fiber dust when counting particles. At the present time, rock dust is not considered harmful. When counting dust particles with the aid of the microscope, it is not possible to differentiate between various kinds of dust.

Mr. Jackson reviewed how the allowable limit of 5 million p.p.c.f. was established. The 5 million p.p.c.f. is a carry over from the quartz industry and seems to be confirmed by clinical experience. The break point of particle size of 10 microns was established at Saranac and has been adopted by many authorities who believe that particles over 10 microns are not harmful to humans.

4. Dust Collection and Suppression

Mr. Atkinson advised the following:

(a) The Skinner electric valves shown on Print #A-3320-2a titled "Proposed Wet Warp Weaving Sprocket and Chain Spray" are not necessary. He also advises that the spray nozzle is installed back of the harness and that a pan which is the full width of the loom is placed under the warp.
(b) Throttle valves should be installed on both lines and the line labeled "air" should be changed to "water" and vice versa.
(c) The water for the nozzle is drawn from a small tank on each loom.
(d) The results obtained with the spray nozzle have been much better than those with a water roll and pan.

Mr. Atkinson also reported that some experimental work is being done with the nozzle used on the looms to direct moisture laden air toward the creels.

Mr. LaChance advised that the Wheelabrator dust collector is used with satisfactory results in the mines and that in few cases Rayon bags have been used where cotton bags did not have quite enough capacity.

The committee discussed the advisability of exchanging information on hood designs with the Asbestosis Research Council of England. It is proposed that member companies would prepare sketches of existing hoods such as hoods on cards and that these sketches would be exchanged for comparable sketches from the Council. Dr. Shaw will contact the Council advising them of our thoughts.

A brief discussion was held on methods of delivering stock from coiling condensers. Various schemes have been tried but none are completely satisfactory. One company is experimenting with a pivoted inclined conveyor whose pivot point is at the condenser. The conveyor is positioned to discharge into a stock truck on either the right or left ends of the conveyor.

5. New Equipment, etc.

A circular from the Miretyzer Corporation, East Paterson, N. J., which described a bag slitter and dumper for asbestos fiber was circulated among the members. It was also announced that the Wilkes

A new magazine called "Air Engineering", published by Air Engineering, Business News Publishing Company, 450 West Fort Street, Detroit 26, Michigan is now being published. The purpose of the magazine is to cover the fields of heating and ventilating, dust control and removal, and air pollution. Subscription price $3.00 per year, $4.50 for two years.

6. Agenda for Next Meeting

1. Discussion of dust collection.
2. Further discuss exchange of information with the Asbestosis Research Council.
3. Plant Safety Programs.

Respectfully submitted,

A. E. May, Chairman
Air Hygiene and Manufacturing
Committee

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