11/6/62

(1) ~~Hartford~~

(2) Coldwater

(3) ~~Ashland~~ -

(4) File 2793 Bulk Batch

General Headquarters
November 6, 1962

Confidential

R. E. Warrick
Parkersburg Plant

Industrial Hygiene Survey
Parkersburg Plant

Enclosed please find the results of the recent Industrial Hygiene Survey of the Parkersburg Plant. The survey reports have been arranged in a Permanent Record Book which should be retained as a confidential document in your office.

In the event DHQ or OHQ requests a review of these records, the book may be forwarded via registered mail and returned promptly.

This survey indicates that 71 samples were taken at 34 stations throughout the Parkersburg Plant. Seven stations were found to be below the maximum allowable concentration and 27 stations above MAC.

The 27 stations above the maximum allowable concentration include the following:

A. Dust - 10 stations involving a silica exposure with average concentrations of dust ranging from 5.9 MPPCF to 197.? MPPCF. The MAC for silica dust is 5.0 MPPCF. The above areas are located in the Bulk Batch House, Furnace Tender Area, and the Old Batch House.

B. Fumes - 4 stations involving a formaldehyde exposure with average concentrations of fumes ranging from 5.0 to 25.0. The MAC for formaldehyde fumes is 5.0 PPM.

C. Noise - 13 stations involving a noise exposure with average concentrations ranging from 96 db. to 110 db. The MAC for noise is currently 95 db., and it is anticipated that this will be reduced to 90 db. in the near future.

Each of the 27 survey stations above MAC present a serious health and related Workmen's Compensation problem. The silica exposures should receive first priority for correction, and the formaldehyde exposures second priority. Mine Safety Appliances "Dustfoe" (silica) and "Gasfoe" (formaldehyde) respirators should be made mandatory in areas of known exposure as a temporary expedient pending engineering control.

A closely supervised respirator program should be instituted to insure proper use, fit, replacement of filters, and cleaning. At best, a respirator is only a temporary measure and will not be considered adequate to prevent an occupational disease, especially in instances of constant exposure.

In order to protect employees against the noise hazard, Mine Safety Appliances or American Optical ear muffs should be made mandatory in areas of noise concentration above 95 db. Engineering to eliminate the noise hazard should be given third priority inasmuch as the ear muffs will provide protection if used properly.

I suggest that you appoint a task force team to review the Industrial Health problems in accordance with Standard Practice IH-96, and coordinate the plant's recommendations with your local engineering group and CTMD. Also, the Industrial Hygiene Department should initiate a personal protective equipment program and present it to your supervisory group for immediate compliance.

Your physical examination program should include pre-employment and periodic 14"x17" x-ray films, the latter on an annual basis. Also, chest fluoroscopic and complete periodic examination should include an audiometric examination to determine the effects of noise on the employees' hearing. Rigid medical standards, including [illegible] regarding hiring of new employees, shall be established. Any indications of x-ray changes or physical injury [illegible] reported to Dr. K. W. Smith for review.

The potential exposures to toxic materials determined by this survey and create a serious moral and financial problem. I suggest that every effort be made to eliminate the hazardous conditions as quickly as possible. Dr. Smith and I are available to provide any additional assistance you may desire.

C. L. Sheckler

CLS/md
cc: D. L. Hinman - DHQ
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