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② C.R.V.L.

General Headquarters
December 3, 1952

A. E. Elsenbast

Hy-Sorb

On Wednesday, November 12, Mr. J. Miller took Mr. A. Thayer of General Engineering and me to several plants to observe the conditions under which absorptive floor materials were used.

At the Reynolds Metal Plant a janitor spread by hand scoop or shovel a very thin layer of material around the machine in drip or splash areas. The material was carefully placed so as not to extend into aisle ways. Re-application of the material was made every two to three weeks, and a tank type vacuum cleaner was used to pick up the used material. Mr. Miller will arrange to get further details concerning the vacuum cleaner being used.

At the Beardsley Food Products plant the hy-sorb was subjected to severe grease spillage. Hy-sorb was spread by hand in a thin layer on a 4 by 20 foot platform as well as in an area of similar size at the packaging operation. Platforms and floors are scrubbed with Oakite and steam to remove completely the accumulation of hydrogenated vegetable oils and codfish "glue." A morning application of hy-sorb does a good job of absorbing the spillage and providing a nonslip surface.

The Service Machine Company was a typical machine shop in which there was considerable cutting oil and coolant spillage. A porter places the absorbant material around the machines "as needed" cleaning it up with broom and shovel when it becomes saturated. Only small amounts are used and are placed close to the base of the machines.

The application of hy-sorb at the Metal Textile Corporation was the largest observed. A porter applied a thin layer by hand over an area approximately 40 by 60 feet in the knitting machine room. Clean-up and replacement was made around individual machines "as needed." Removal was accomplished by broom and shovel. Although machine operators were constantly walking on the applied material it was, for the most part, kept out of the trucking aisles.

At the Beckley Perforating Company the absorptive material was spread by hand around the large punch presses, removed and replaced as the material became saturated. Clean-up was done with shovel and broom. A rather novel application of the hy-sorb was for "dry cleaning" large perforated metal sheets for customers who wanted them dry and clean but not degreased. This was accomplished by hand spreading a very thin layer of hy-sorb between the sheets as they were stacked prior to shipment.

In my opinion the creation of and exposure to dust in these typical applications of hy-sorb would be far less severe than those determined in our initial tests. Recommended practices, such as the use of a spreader for application and vacuum cleaners for clean-up, might be developed to further reduce consumer exposure; but under the conditions observed the exposure in hand application and clean-up are negligible.

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For further evaluation of the hazard potential, we would recommend that:

A. Hy-sorb prepared by the anticipated commercial methods (H. L. King's letter of November 4) should be used.

B. Determination of presence or absence of crystalline silica in the test product be made by x-ray diffraction.

C. Under more adequately controlled conditions, dust measurements be made of applications similar in quantity and scope to the above discussed usages, as well as thinly spread application on areas comparable to those in the initial experiment.

D. "Exposure" tests be made in a chamber duplicating that used by the Eagle-Picher Company in order to compare our results to their product.

E. "Exposure" tests be made in a closed room to determine the length of time particles remain in the air at breathing level.

H. M. Jackson

HMJ:Mr
cc: H. L. King
G. J. O'Neil
H. E. Williams
A. B. Cummins

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