Everything for Mine and Industrial Safety

CHURCHILL 5900

CABLE ADDRESS "MINSAF" PITTSBURGH

Mine Safety Appliances Co.

BRADDOCK, THOMAS AND MEADE STREETS

Pittsburgh, Pa.

Mr. Vandiver Brown, Attorney,
Johns-Manville,
22 East 40th Street,
New York, New York.

August 23, 1935.

Dear Mr. Brown:

We are very glad to offer such suggestions as we have to help you formulate definite plans as outlined in your letter of August 21.

As you can appreciate, the matter of posting notices throughout the factory is one which should be very carefully worded, and our suggestion would be to post notices merely informing employees that respirators are available at the Supplies Department (From the Storekeeper) and the management requests the cooperation of the employee in wearing respirators wherever dusty conditions exist. Possibly you could specify on this notice those operations in the plant where respirators should always be worn. As a further incentive to get the employees to wear the respirators, we believe that better results can be had by the Safety Director or the Superintendent or foreman, urging the use of the respirators at their periodical safety meetings. More pressure can be applied in this manner than in a posted printed notice.

With reference to Item 2 in your letter, most manufacturing plants maintain a check system in connection with the issuance of certain tools and supplies which are to be used during the day and returned to the storekeeper at the end of the day's work. Inasmuch as we believe it advisable for some one individual to be held responsible for sterilizing the respirators and keeping them in serviceable condition, we would suggest that each respirator be identified by a different number, this number to be stamped on the outside of the metal container next to the face. By removing the filters from the container and placing it over a round wooden block, the numbers could be quickly applied with a metal stencil, or metal die, and would not be removed when the respirator is sterilized. Then by providing each man with a small brass number check with a number corresponding to his respirator, this would insure a man getting the same respirator day after day. This same number could also be printed on the outside of the carton. If a permanent record is required showing that respirators were issued to certain employees, the

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storekeeper could be required to stamp the inside of the carton cover with the date he issued each respirator, using a rubber dating stamp. If you required the individual's signature each time a respirator is issued to him, then of course you would have to provide a special form for that purpose. This paragraph also applies to your No. 3.

As to inspection, we believe the storekeeper or one of his assistants should be required to sterilize the respirator after each day's use, following the instructions printed on the outside of each carton. We might also suggest that a record of such inspection be maintained either on the inside of the carton cover or on a special form provided for that purpose.

Frankly, this is the first time we have been called upon to offer such suggestions, as every plant usually has their own individual method. We believe, however, that you should have one man in each plant or department responsible for the respirators, both as to issuance and maintaining them in serviceable condition, and we further believe it would be an advantage possibly at some future date to have a permanent written record of both inspections after each day's use of the respirator and a record of each time a respirator is issued to an individual.

I hope the above information will be of some help. You may find later, depending upon the procedure outlined for your various plants that a more permanent metal container would be advisable. We have available metal containers with hinged covers which will hold the respirator in the cardboard carton. These are sometimes used where the respirator is required to be carried in a tool-box or other places where the cardboard carton would be badly damaged. These are very substantial metal boxes and in small quantities sell for $1.00.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Very truly yours,

MINE SAFETY APPLIANCES COMPANY

J. B. Davies

J. B. Davies, Manager,
Industrial Department.

JBD:MHM

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