MINUTES OF THE ASBESTOS TEXTILE INSTITUTE

AIR HYGIENE COMMITTEE MEETING

September 5, 1956

IN ATTENDANCE WERE:

D. R. Holmes
R. Smith, General Asbestos
H. Jackson, Johns-Manville
W. Luttenberger, Raybestos-Manhattan
J. Weber, American Asbestos
J. Beatty, Southern Asbestos
A. May, Keasbey & Mattison

MORNING SESSION

#1 Subject to be discussed was the wheelobrator dust collection system.

It was agreed by the committee that this system is by far the best on the market for handling asbestos material. Three member companies are now using this type unit. One company has ordered several units and two others are contemplating the purchase of this type collector in the future.

From our discussion it was decided that the units in operation are comparatively trouble free and can be operated at a low maintenance cost. Some member companies use cyclones, others do not. It may not be necessary to use cyclones with this equipment as good fibres fall out constantly. Then after shaking down you get the second grade fibre which still need not be cleaned.

On the push through type wheelobrator collector there is a three step operation performed:

1. The fibre falls out continually into the air stream.
2. When the air is shut off suspended fibres fall out.
3. When the air supply is reversed the bags are cleaned.

#2 (a) Means and methods of eliminating harmful dust.

1. One company has been converting to the use of flyer frames for twisting on reinforced yarns. As we all know these frames operate at a slower speed and create much less dust.

(b) The use of the Spencer oiler for conditioning stock.

Two companies are now using this type unit and both report that a satisfactory job is being done by them. This is a totally enclosed chamber in which a brush is mounted above the stock, oil is fed to the brush. This oil is thrown off in droplets down onto the stock. This operation is almost completely trouble free. The use of this type oiler, not only conditions stock, but above all it cuts down on free fibres in the area causing better dust control throughout the mill operation. This unit can be purchased from the Harwood Company.

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AFTERNOON SESSION

#1 The first item of discussion was in the form of a question.

Should we continue to give employees a yearly x-ray examination in face of the questions raised recently by a group of radiation scientists? They infer that there can be too much radiation from x-ray causing harm to body cell tissues. This group advised that a limit of seven x-ray exposures including dental x-rays should be held for persons up to thirty years of age in order that radiation does not interfere with the reproductive organs of people in that age group. As the chairman did not have the proper reference sources for this information, H. Jackson and A. May will bring additional information to the next meeting. This subject will again be discussed at that time.

#2 We held a discussion of dust counts in member company plants.

One company has all counts within their plant under 1 M dust count. One company now has 2.3 M in the weaving department and 2.1 M in carding and spinning. This 2.1 M figure is the result of the installation of dust covers on spinners and twisters while totally enclosing these machines. The dust count in this case was 4.8 two years ago. Therefore, quite an improvement in the dust count has been made in this department. All companies are definitely making progress towards the elimination of harmful dust by whatever means, and most progress seems to be a result of the free exchange of ideas within this committee.

#3 Next was a discussion of the proposed Epidemiological Study of Lung Cancer in asbestos workers for the Asbestos Institute, by the Industrial Hygiene Foundation.

All members of our committee have had a copy of this proposal since June.

This proposal informs us that there are at least 1800 employees under observable conditions for periods sufficiently long enough to get a total of no less than 15,000 person years. They also advise that this should be an adequate basis on which to predict 90% accuracy provided that the plant incident is actually higher than that in the general population. The field work should take 6 months and an analysis preparation of data and review another 6 months. The cost of this study is estimated at $17,500 including travel. The initial survey cost was $864.00. After a long discussion of this proposal during which there was considerable difference in opinion concerning the merits of such a study, it was decided that this discussion would be continued at the next meeting and no recommendation will be made to the Board of Governors at this time.

AGENDA FOR THE NEXT MEETING

1. Continuing the discussion of the memorandum from the I.H.F. on Asbestosis and Cancer.

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2. Discussion of the Effects of Radiation on the human body.

3. Continuing the duscussion of spraying fibres with oil with a view toward the elimination of dust at the source.

4. Report on general improvements and elimination of dust by whatever means.

D. R. Holmes, Chairman
Air Hygiene Committee
Asbestos Textile Institute

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ACL Doc 12926 · Page 3 of 3 asbestosclaims.law/library/12926/3