

cc: J. A. Bunderguss

APR 8 1974

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Interoffice Correspondence



Subject:

PLAINTIFF'S
EXHIBIT
WCD-74

irc: H. G. Converse - 24-2
L. A. Johnson - 220-7E
S. D. Sorenson - 220-2E
M. W. Tudor - 24-2E
A. H. Weaver - 24-2E

April 5, 1974

TO: F. A. UEBEL, M.D. - MEDICAL DEPT. - 220-2E

FROM: M. R. SANDQUIST - PROD. SAFETY ENGR. - 23-3

In late January, 1974 Production Safety Engineering was informed by our Quality Control Dept. that the presence of tremolite was detected in a sample of RM-5263 (#1313 talc - soapstone). This was the first report of its presence. Mr. Stan Sorenson was informed of this report and he communicated with Central Research to verify test methods and amounts of tremolite present.

On February 7 & 15, 1974 Stan surveyed the mill area where RM-5263 is used and determined that tremolite levels approaching TLV and OSHA criteria were present. (See Stans report dated 2-27-74). In this report he makes five recommendations to reduce the exposure to tremolite material. I will reply to these recommendations in the same numerical order.

1. Obtain alternate talc, free of tremolite.

On March 11, 1974, Mr. L. A. Johnson, Tape Process Safety, sent a letter to Mr. S. J. McInerney, 3M Purchasing, requesting him to contact the vendor Whittaker, Clark and Daniel to see if they could supply a soapstone that would meet a specification for RM-5263 of 1.0% maximum free silica in addition to 1.0% maximum tremolite or other asbestos forms. Mr. McInerney has written to Whittaker, Clark and Daniel, however, a reply has not been received. Mr. Johnson will report all information, on this subject, as soon as received.

2. Greater priority to Taylor Stiles cutter modification.

The Taylor Stiles cutter modification has always had top priority and as Stan implies was being engineered at the

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time the presence of tremolite was reported. With this modification the 3 x 5 foot (approx.) sheets of mill base will be mechanically dusted, with the minimum amount of soapstone possible, as they enter the cutter. The entire cutter assembly will be enclosed to permit the exhausting of the dust laden air through a cyclone dust collector, which is designed to remove 99.9% of the dust. The bulk of the air will be exhausted to the out of doors with only a small amount used to carry the collected soapstone back to the mechanical duster.

When the 3 x 5 foot sheets are cut into 2 x 2 inch pieces tacky sides are exposed. Therefore, soapstone dusting is necessary to prevent them from sticking together and causing a charging and dissolving problem at the churns.

This modification should be completed by June 15, 1974.

3. Substitute interleaving for talc.

About April 1973 a program was started to use interleaving in place of soapstone to prevent some millbase pigs (moguls) and sheets (churns) from sticking together. This program has been progressively expanded since that time with the result being almost complete elimination of soapstone dusting at the mill. Work continues to eliminate soapstone dusting of one or two remaining millbases.

Millbase is currently being soapstone dusted at the Taylor Stiles cutter using a small brush. This will be discontinued when the previously described Taylor Stiles modification is completed.

The elimination of soapstone dusting at the mills has reduced soapstone consumption from approximately 200,000 pounds to 70,000 pounds per year. It is felt that a further reduction will be realized after the Taylor Stiles modification.

4. Discontinue blowing dust off equipment and clothing.

The only equipment which requires blowing off now, and will continue to require it in the future, is the Taylor Stiles cutter. However, the exhaust which is part of the Taylor Stiles modification will be of sufficient capacity to exhaust the dust generated.

Consideration is being given to purchasing a vacuum cleaner to be used by the employees to dust off their clothes.

5. Use respiratory protection in dusty operations.

Instructions have been given to the Taylor Stiles cutter operator to wear a 3M #8710 dust mask when he is blowing off the cutter and

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any other time when excessive dust is present. #8710 dust masks are always available on request to any employee.

When the Taylor Stiles modification program is completed about June 15, 1974 I will notify Stan Sorenson and make arrangements for a complete survey of the mill area.

Bob

MRS/jb

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