

ABSTRACT

HEALTH HAZARD EVALUATION DETERMINATION

REPORT NO. 73-64

Toxic Substances: Product A2 (A Proprietary Substance)

Industry: Manufacture/Fourdrinier cloth for use in the paper-making industry

Study Data: Employee interviews  
Work practices  
Chemical constituents

Study Results: A small operation in which "Product A2" is sprayed on fourdrinier cloth was studied. The request was initiated on the basis of curiosity, not on the basis of complaints or adverse reactions to Product A2. The operation is performed about once per week in which two men participate.

Toxicity Determination: It was determined that Product A2, as used and found, is not toxic to employees. This determination is based upon lack of employee complaints, lack of evident adverse reactions, relatively low toxicity of Product A2, and its sporadic use which limits exposures.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE  
NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH  
CINCINNATI, OHIO 45202

HEALTH HAZARD EVALUATION DETERMINATION  
REPORT NO. 73-64

INTERNATIONAL WIRE WORKS  
435 6th STREET  
MENASHA, WISCONSIN  
NOVEMBER 1973

I. TOXICITY DETERMINATION

As a result of a NIOSH investigation it is determined that "Product A2" is non-toxic to Finish Department employees in concentrations as used and found on September 5, 1973. This determination is based upon three factors: (1) An apparent absence of employee complaints or related health problems, (2) the operation is performed only once per week, thus limiting employee exposures, and (3) relevant literature regards Product A2 composition material as a mild irritant.

II. DISTRIBUTION AND AVAILABILITY OF DETERMINATION REPORT

Copies of this Determination Report are available upon request from the Hazard Evaluation Services Branch, NIOSH, U.S. Post Office Building, Room 508, 5th and Walnut Streets, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202. Copies have been sent to:

- a) International Wire Works, Menasha, Wisconsin
- b) Authorized Representative of Employees
- c) U.S. Department of Labor - Region V
- d) NIOSH - Region V

For purposes of informing the affected employees, the employer will promptly "post" the Determination Report in a prominent place(s) near where affected employees work for a period of 30 calendar days.

III. INTRODUCTION

Section 20(a)(6) of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, 29 U.S.C. 669(a)(6), authorizes the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, following a written request by any employer or authorized representative of employees, to determine whether any substance normally found in the place of employment has potentially toxic effects in such concentrations as used or found.

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) received such a request from an authorized representative of employees to evaluate the potential hazards associated with the alleged exposures to Product A in the Finishing Department.

IV. HEALTH HAZARD EVALUATION

A visit to the plant was made on September 5, 1973, by Messrs. Lee B. Larsen and David J. Burton. With the assistance of the Plant Manager and the Employee Representative, the following pertinent information was obtained:

A. Since the time of the request, "Product A2" has been substituted for "Product A". The International Wire Works has requested that the composition of Product A2 be treated as proprietary information. Toxicology literature reports the material in Product A2 to be "mildly irritating".

B. Product A2 is sprayed on fourdrinier cloth during one shift per week in which two men are exposed. The spray equipment is stationary while the cloth travels below it. Employees stand behind the spray equipment during operation. No local exhaust ventilation is used. General room air ventilation is used during operations.

C. Employee interviews indicate (1) no complaints, and (2) no apparent health problems.

D. The management expects to replace the spraying operation with a "doping" or dipping operation which will eliminate the spray operation.

E. In the walk-through, no evidence of overspray could be seen on adjacent equipment, walls, furniture, etc.

F. No history of any adverse reactions to Product A2 was noted in OSHA 100, OSHA 102, or from employee interviews.

V. AUTHORSHIP AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Acknowledgments

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