

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

HEALTH HAZARD EVALUATION DETERMINATION  
REPORT NO. 74-76-178

JOSEPH DYSON & SONS, INC.  
PAINESVILLE, OHIO

MARCH 1975

I. TOXICITY DETERMINATION

It is determined on the basis of data obtained from medical questionnaires and professional judgement that a health hazard from exposure to Ebonite forge and dye compound did not exist at the time of this evaluation. The investigation was conducted in September 1974 and at that time it was ascertained that the use of this product had been discontinued for approximately three years. Nevertheless, the four workers involved in the area where the compound had been used were asked non-directed questions regarding the status of their health.

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) Joseph Dyson & Sons, Inc., Painesville, Ohio
- b) U.S. Department of Labor - Region V
- c) NIOSH - Region V

For the purposes of informing approximately four exposed employees, this report shall be posted in a prominent place readily accessible to workers for a period of at least 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 Joseph Dyson & Sons, Inc., Painesville, Ohio to evaluate the potential hazards associated with the alleged exposure to a forging lubricant.

#### IV. HEALTH HAZARD EVALUATION

##### A. Conditions of Use

The Joseph Dyson & Sons, Inc. in Painesville, Ohio manufactures forks for lift trucks. The area in which the request was made bends the forks to a 90° angle. The forks are heated at the bend point to a temperature of 2200°F and then placed in the "upset machine" where the initial bending is made. A forging grease is applied at this point to the hot forks. The fork is then transferred to the bending machine where the final bend is made. The entire operation is carried out in a large building with good natural ventilation. In the total plant there are 165 production workers but in the specific area of the request there are only four employees involved.

##### B. Evaluation Design

It was disclosed at the time of the visit that the forging lubricant Ebonite containing graphite had been discontinued about three years ago and replaced with a parafin base lubricant containing lithium and molybdenum. This change was made because workers had complained of sore throats from use of the graphite lubricant. After observing the operation it was concluded that there was no further need to evaluate the environmental condition. All four employees in this operation were interviewed and only one said he had a health problem that he felt may be related to his work, the other three had no problems. Permission from the one worker was obtained to contact his private physician in order to determine if further medical studies were necessary.

##### C. Evaluation Results and Discussions

In view of the fact that the graphite containing lubricant had been discontinued and the amount of general ventilation available to this operation, it was concluded that no hazard existed in this area from exposure to the forging lubricant formerly used.

The physician who cared for the worker who felt he might have a job related health problem was contacted. The worker's diagnosis was a well-known disease entity which has not been associated with the agents to which the worker is exposed.

In conclusion, it was determined that this illness does not appear to be job related.

V. AUTHORSHIP AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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