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JOINT SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT

For

JUNE/JULY 2003

AIR SAMPLING TESTS

TEO 04 case and vain shop – Concerns regarding residual metal spray particles and other possible contaminants on parts leaving the blast shop and machine shop has resulted in air sampling tests. The first tests were conducted in the *04 case and vain* shop area, but were ruled “inconclusive” due to problems encountered during the testing process. New procedures have been implemented to further eliminate unnecessary exposure to metallic dusts. The parts are now cleaned/vacuumed in the machine process area before being sent to the 04 shop for assembly. Due to the “new procedure”, the second round of air sampling/testing was performed in the machine process shop area the week of July 1. Results will be forthcoming soon.

Roll on paint, RB211 07 casing, flat exterior black paint (cpn 4117493) used to coat the ice impact track of an RB21107 casing was tested for potential hazards. OSHA PEL (Permissible Exposure Limit) is 100 ppm as an 8hr time weighted avg. Test results using charcoal tubes (for vapor), using a pre and post calibrated air sample pump, results were > 1.7 ppm, well within permissible levels. The testing was conducted as a result of an employee complaint.

Blue filler compound, 07 shop, cpn (5481122a & b), air sampling was conducted to evaluate employee exposure to dust resulting from grinding and sanding the product after application. Samples were collected on tared 5-micron PVC cassettes using a pre and post calibrated air sample pump. Results based on an 8hr time weighted avg. exposure was 0.05 milligrams per cubic meter (mg/M³). Well below the OSHA PEL of 15 mg/M³.

Grinding operation, 07 shop, evaluation of dust exposure from grinding the fan track of a RB-211 engine. The sampling was conducted to ensure that the exhaust ventilation system in use was effective in controlling dust exposure. The employee’s 8 hr. time weighted avg. exposure to dust was 3.1 mg/M³. The OSHA PEL of 15 mg/M³ as an 8-hr. time weighted avg. was not exceeded.

HEARING CONSERVATION

Base wide noise sampling assessments are being conducted by Industrial Hygienist Tim Dunlevy. All areas will be assessed and rated in an effort to insure a quality hearing conservation program at AFW. Results will determine “high” and “low” noise areas based upon OSHA exposure limits for 8hr periods of time.

PPE ASSESSMENTS

Base wide PPE (personal protective equipment) assessments are proceeding as planned. The assessments will include all work areas at AFW, risks related to environment and other conditions are evaluated to determine what equipment may be best suited to prevent accidents or injury. Some examples include: inhalation risk protection, hand protection, eye protection, fall protection, hearing protection, etc.

OTHER NEWS

An implosion of a lav tank in paint and fiberglass shop occurred several weeks ago. The incident occurred while performing a standard vacuum test. It was soon determined that this procedure should be performed with the tank placed within a protect "cell", not in an open area. A "test box" has been built and is in use currently, though it's integrity is in question and is being investigated to determine if it is structurally adequate.

OSHA Trade Release

Thursday, June 5, 2003

OSHA TO PROPOSE REVISED RESPIRATORY PROTECTION STANDARDS

WASHINGTON -- The Occupational Safety and Health Administration will publish two proposed rules in tomorrow's Federal Register to enhance worker protections from respiratory hazards on the job. OSHA is seeking comments until Sept. 4, 2003, on its proposals to amend the Respiratory Protection Standard to include a new fit testing procedure and incorporate new Assigned Protection Factors (APFs) for respiratory protection programs, that are expected to prevent approximately 4,000 injuries and illnesses and prevent about 900 deaths annually from cancer and other chronic diseases.

Written comments on both proposed rulemakings must be submitted by Sept. 4. Written comments (10 pages or fewer) can be faxed to OSHA's Docket Office at (202) 693-1648 or sent electronically to <http://ecomments.osha.gov>. Three copies of written comments and attachments must be submitted to the OSHA Docket Office, Docket H-049C (APF) or H-049D (CNP), Room N-2625, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Ave., Washington, DC, 20210. Further information on submitting comments can be obtained by calling the Docket Office at (202) 693-2350.

OSHA plans to hold an informal public hearing on the APF proposal in Washington, DC in late summer or early fall of 2003. Interested parties who intend to present testimony at the hearing must notify OSHA of their intention to do so no later than Sept. 4. The meeting location and date will be announced following the comment period.

Michael Schwanz

Safety and Health Committee
Executive Board, TWU Local 567

"While the intrinsic nature of yearning is to acquire something, get somewhere, or accomplish a goal, we ultimately discover that there is nothing to get and nowhere to go."

-- R' David A. Cooper

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