

Internal Letter



Rockwell International

Date . December 5, 1988

No. .

TO (Name, Organization, Internal Address)
. Todd Lewis
. Industrial Relations
. T-452D

FROM (Name, Organization, Internal Address, Phone)
. Trish Baker
. Medical
. Bldg. 122
. 4494

SUBJECT. MEDICAL/INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE MEETINGS

In the follow-up of our conversation regarding monthly Medical Department/Industrial Hygiene meetings, a couple of issues were brought to my attention. The first concerns the difficulty Medical has in completing physical exams by the previously scheduled 11 a.m. time slot. Secondly, eating space seems to be somewhat limited in view of the number of people interested in attending the meetings.

Would the following proposal be possible, considering your department and staffing needs?

1. Continue the 4th Friday of each month as the scheduled meeting dates.
2. Change to an 11:30 a.m. time to allow for completion of medical exams.
3. Explore the possibility of using the 112 conference room for our meetings.

I will be happy to check on the availability of the 112 conference room if the above is compatible with your schedule, and if you are in agreement with the above.

Feel free to give me a call if you have questions. Suggestions welcome.

Trish Baker

Trish Baker
Medical



ADMIN RECCRL

DOCUMENT CLASSIFICATION
REVIEW WAIVER PER
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Internal Letter



Rockwell International

Date · February 17, 1989

No. ·

TO (Name, Organization, Internal Address)

FROM (Name, Organization, Internal Address, Phone)

· Laundry

· M.S. Colalancia
· Ind. Hyg.
· T452D
· 4229

SUBJECT · INCREASING NUMBER OF SKIN RASH CASES PLANTWIDE

It has come to the attention of the Industrial Hygiene department that the number of reported cases of skin rashes is skyrocketing. Our determination that this is indeed the case comes from the number of reported cases of skin rash from medical over the past 6 years. In the past month and a half, there have been more dermatitis cases reported than in the past year.

Industrial Hygiene, as part of our program to address the skin rash problem, is asking for your help with the following recommendations:

- A. New coveralls should be washed a minimum of three (3) times to insure that the sizing chemicals are removed to give a more comfortable fit.
- B. Care should be taken in mixing detergents and softeners to insure that the mixtures are in procedural balance.
- C. Overstuffing laundry loads must be avoided. When loads are overstuffing, rinsing is not effective and skin rashes abound since most skin types are sensitive to detergents.

Your cooperation in helping us eliminate the skin rash problem is very important.

Thank You,

Marco S. Colalancia
Industrial Hygiene

Todd F. Lewis
Manager, Ind. Hyg

cc: John McCarthy
Ken D. Gravley

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Internal Letter



Rockwell International

Date .
January 20 1988

No. .

TO (Name, Organization, Internal Address)

FROM (Name, Organization, Internal Address, Phone)

. John McCarthy
. Nuclear & Industrial Safety
. 886

. M.S. Colalancia
. Ind. Hyg.
. T452D
. 4229

SUBJECT .
DERMATITIS STUDY SUMMARY

1. In terms of the total number of dermatitis cases reported plantwide by the area in which they occurred, the number of cases appears to be highest in the Production Operations department.
2. In the production operations area, the largest number of reported dermatitis cases were reported by Metallurgical Operators, followed by toolmakers, machinists and welders.
3. The department with the second highest incident of contact dermatitis is the Plutonium Operations department. In this department, the highest incident of dermatitis was reported by Chemical Operators.
4. In the departments of Supply Operations, and QE & C, four cases were reported in 1988 and one case was reported by Supply Operations.

SUMMARY

Compared to previous years, the incident of reported dermatitis cases has increased significantly in the area of production operations. Pinpointing the cause may be as simple as replacing soap which is used by the workers. However, consideration has not yet been given to the localization of the dermatitis contracted. This consideration will be forthcoming upon a meaningful explanation. This pilot study was to simply pinpoint areas of concern.

M.S. Colalancia
Industrial Hygiene

cc: T.F. Lewis
K.D. Gravley

Internal Letter



Rockwell International

Date .July 20, 1989

No. .

TO (Name, Organization, Internal Address)
.H.N. Gaines Jr.
.HS & E Ops. & Plans
.T452B

FROM (Name, Organization, Internal Address, Phone)
.M.S. Colalancia
.Ind. Hyg.
.T452D
.4229

SUBJECT. CHANGES IN CONDUCT FOR TREATMENT OF OCCUPATIONAL DERMATITIS

Per our phone conversation July 19, 1989, I am providing you with information regarding recent changes in conduct which are being implemented to aid in the reduction of dermatitis cases plantwide. The two issues brought up in your letter must first be addressed however. First, there have been no changes in the glove powders according to our supplier of Perry surgical gloves, Smith & Nephew Medical. The powder in the gloves is cornstarch, the releasing agent in the gloves is CaCO_3 . CaCO_3 can irritate skin if it comes into contact with it because of its macerative effect (abrasion caused by mechanical motion of hands in gloves). This is usually seen when gloves are turned inside out. Normally, gloves not turned inside out have a layer of corn starch which touches the skin, and a far reduced maceration. Second, talc is MgCO_3 (magnesium carbonate) which is not used at all, neither is CaCl_2 .

Our response plan has been the following:

To aid those with glove related dermatitis, the Industrial Hygiene department has issued recommendations involving proper hygiene involving handwashing and correct glove donning. A poster campaign has been adopted. Additionally, Production Operations and Maintenance Operations have been notified and directed not to break up cases of gloves at the tool crypts. When this is done, areas only get left or right hand gloves, not both. Subsequently, gloves are reversed. An article appeared in the MMK publication concerning this matter last week, as well as the publication of a Safetygram. Experimental use of cornstarch in dispensers will be allowed, as well as lotions. Gloves which are causing dermatitis are being tested by an independent laboratory at no cost to Rockwell to see if there is an abnormal amount of latex rubber process chemicals in them which can also be irritating.

Rockwell's laundry has been tested by a research and development laboratory familiar with textile laundering chemistry. Their findings were that although the clothing had been properly laundered and soured (fabric softener) the towel we sent had an abnormally high concentration of surfactant (soap) probably due to inadequate rinsing. This soap can be transferred from the towel to wet skin and become an irritation problem.

H. N. Gaines
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Industrial Hygiene has recommended changes in the laundry procedure to allow for better rinsing of the loads. Since its implementation, the revised laundry procedure has not produced clothing related dermatitis. These changes had been reviewed and approved by Industrial Hygiene, Plant Services, and Medical prior to their implementation. An additional step would be using liquid soap, which is effective for washing and can be rinsed out with greater ease. This step is dependent upon the machinery in the laundry, however, since the automatically powdered chemical hoppers may not be able to accommodate such a conversion. The laundry is investigating this possibility.

If you have any questions regarding this response plan, do not hesitate to call. Correct and timely information about this subject is a necessity.



M. S. Colalancia
Ind. Hyg.
Hyg.



B. M. Clausen
Prog. Admin.

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Internal Letter



Rockwell International

Date · October 10, 1989

No. · glovlet3

TO (Name, Organization, Internal Address)
· M.A. Peters
· HS & E Laboratory
· 123

FROM (Name, Organization, Internal Address, Phone)
· M.S. Colalancia
· Ind. Hyg.
· T452D
· 4229

SUBJECT ·

UNCONTROLLED LATEX GLOVE REQUEST

A long-term solution to the problem of glove related dermatitis is the formation and implimentation of a separate standard for individuals who have skin hypersensitivities. The gloves that will be used for such a standard will only be available to individuals who demonstrate a true need for these specialized gloves. This standard is being developed.

As an interim solution to the necessity of ordering surgical gloves that do not meet the requirements of glove standard SX-107, Industrial Hygiene will allow a limited order of these gloves to occur. With this allowance, you are responsible for maintaining glove control so that people outside of your area do not use them. This form must be signed and sent back to Industrial Hygiene before your requisition will be processed.

"I hereby assume responsibility to control surgical gloves I order which do not meet the standards of excellence outlined in RFP standard SX-107. I understand that I must limit the use of these gloves to individuals with glove related skin problems and that a breach of control will lead to confiscation of the gloves".

Requisitioner

Filling out this form will allow you obtain one order of gloves. The gloves that you order now for sensitive individuals may not be the gloves that can be obtained for sensitive workers in the future. Those gloves will have to meet or exceed a different standard.

Should you have any questions with regard to this form, please do not hesitate to call.

M.S. Colalancia
Ind. Hyg.

T.F. Lewis
Mgr., Ind. Hyg.

cc:C.S. Schelble

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