

TRAINING

Training is an important expenditure each year at Clinton Mills.

It's an investment that helps make the Company stronger by having employees with more ability to contribute to their work. In many instances, it's an investment that also helps employees by opening doors to new opportunities.

Clinton's training department places much emphasis on helping employees to become weavers, spinners, doffers, spooler operators, loom filling suppliers, and other necessary jobs.

Mary Hughes, instructor, trains Kathy Kibler as a weaver.



Semi-Annual Testing In Progress

Texcon Conducting Dust Sampling Studies

Clinton Mills conducted semi-annual dust monitoring to assure compliance with the Occupational Safety and Health Act during January.

The company retains Texcon, Inc. of Greenville to perform the actual dust monitoring. A team of trained technicians visits each place every six months and utilizes space age-looking devices called vertical elutriators to collect particles of cotton dust which measure 15 microns or smaller that may be present in a work area.

The company, in most every manufacturing area, is within the OSHA permissible exposure limits that have been set for the industry.

In yarn manufacturing, (opening to slashing), OSHA has set the P.E.L. (Permissible Exposure Limits) at .2 milligrams per cubic meter of air; slashing and weaving, .75 milligrams per cubic meter of air, and warehouse, wastehouse and other areas, .50 milligrams per cubic meter of air.

It is almost impossible to understand the small amount of dust acceptable under the standard. For instance, think about two grains of salt in a large refrigerator. This will illustrate what the "standard" would look like in yarn manufacturing areas.

Texcon technicians, using their air sampling techniques and equipment, operate the elutriators for a minimum of six hours on each shift. The elutriators are located in strategic spots throughout the designated work areas. The equipment is designed to collect the smallest particles which are to be respirable. The elutriators also capture

other harmless substances which may be present in the air during the sampling process.

Each cone-shaped cylinder is attached to a support which places the end of the elutriator cone at the approximate height of the average employee. The machine's vacuum pump draws air through the bottom of the device the same level that an employee breathes.

As air is pulled through the elutriator, it passes through a special cassette attached at the top of the cylinder. A filter in the cassette picks up only those particles of dust which are 15 microns or smaller, and the larger particles fall out before they move up the cylinder to the filters.

At the end of the testing cycles, the filter are removed, collected in a series, and taken to a laboratory where sensitive electronic measuring devices weigh the particles which cling to the filters.

Once the filter weights are determined and averaged, a special mathematical formula is used to calculate individual exposure limits. Individuals are then apprised of their exposure levels. Various work practices and protective equipment are utilized to assure employee health and safety compliance with the cotton dust standard.

Over the years, Clinton Mills has spent and continues to spend huge sums of money to assure employees of a clean, healthy and safe environment.