

Gay Rains removes filters in order to weigh them on digital scales.



Filters capture samples of respirable dust. Kay Shipman examines a cassette.

Clinton Mills Conducts Semi-annual Dust Monitoring

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

The company retains Texcon, Inc. of Greenville to perform the actual dust monitoring. A team of trained technicians visits each plant 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.

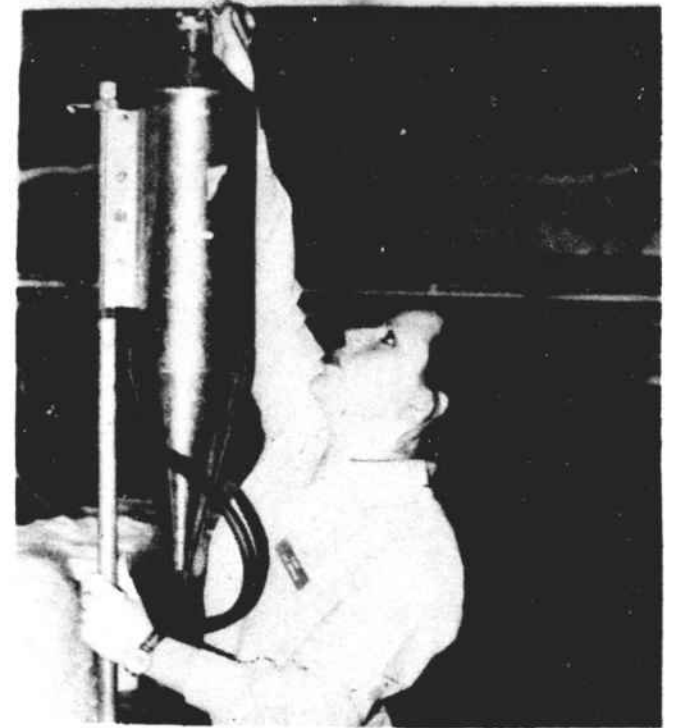
It is almost impossible to understand the small amount of dust acceptable under the standard. For instance, think about two grains of salt in a large refrigerator. This will illustrate what the "standard" would look like in yarn manufacturing areas.

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



Nita Barksdale places filters in cassette.



Kay Shipman connects filter to vertical elutriator.

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 cycle, the filters 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 expo-

sure limits. Individuals are then apprised of their exposure levels. Various work practices and protective equipment are utilized to assure employee health and safety and 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.

Employees Recognized For Long Service



Rufus Handback
Lydia
40 Years



John Copeland
Lydia
25 Years



Pat Owens
Office
25 Years



Sara Bolt
Plant No. 2
25 Years