

NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH DIVISION
RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA

February 25, 1976

Operational Procedure Notice 14

TO: Consultants, Supervisors, Safety Officers, Industrial Hygienist, and Staff

Subject: Cotton Dust Sampling Strategy

a. When Sampling cotton dust in textile mills, find out normal periods of machine cleaning (blowing down) and change personal samples before and after this process. If an overexposure is only caused by the cleaning operation, respiratory protection will be required only while cleaning (blowing down).

Most vacuum systems are not satisfactory for cleaning; therefore, administrative and personal protective equipment controls must be taken to limit exposure below the TLV (1.0 mg/m³).

b. Plants that only partially process cotton (weaving, spinning, etc. only) shall not be inspected prior to inspecting textile mills that include opening, picking, and carding processes. After all opening, picking, and carding cotton operations have been inspected, each partial cotton operation will be considered for inspection and the industrial hygiene supervisor shall set a priority.

c. Safety officers will continue to inspect cotton batting, cottonseed oil, and mattress plants and referrals for cotton dust will be forwarded to Raleigh.

Presently, OSHA has discontinued sampling for compliance of the raw cotton dust standard (1.0 mg/m³) in these plants. NIOSH is performing a research study in these plants. At the time of the reinstatement of the standard, referrals will be assigned to industrial hygienists for inspection. If items appear on the referral other than cotton dust, the OSHA Director shall determine the priority of industrial hygiene inspections.

(Signed on Original)

Michael R. Peeler
OSHA Standards Engineer

(Signed on Original)

R. P. Boylston
OSHA Director