

Cotton dust: Geometric mean exposures and percent exceeding designated occupational exposure limits by cotton process, OSHA samples, 1980–2003

Year	Yarn Manufacturing & Cotton Washing (OSHA PEL = 0.2 mg/m ³) (NIOSH REL = 0.2 mg/m ³)			Textile Mill Waste House or Dust from Lower-Grade Cotton Washing During Yarn Manufacturing (OSHA PEL = 0.5 mg/m ³)			Textile Slashing and Weaving (OSHA PEL = 0.75 mg/m ³)			Cotton Waste Processing/Recycling & Garnetting (OSHA PEL = 1.0 mg/m ³)		
	GM (mg/m ³)	No. of Samples	% > PEL REL	GM (mg/m ³)	No. of Samples	% > PEL REL	GM (mg/m ³)	No. of Samples	% > PEL REL	GM (mg/m ³)	No. of Samples	% > PEL REL
1980	-	0	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	0.002	1	0.0
1981	0.233	7	57.1	-	0	-	-	0	-	4.898	3	100.0
1982	0.131	67	23.9	0.157	5	0.0	40.0	0.395	12	25.0	4	25.0
1983	0.164	130	28.5	0.182	10	20.0	20.0	0.053	16	6.3	8	37.5
1984	0.170	54	40.7	0.091	8	0.0	25.0	0.248	7	14.3	0	-
1985	0.209	70	52.9	0.173	7	14.3	28.6	0.616	9	11.1	4	50.0
1986	0.217	46	43.5	-	0	-	-	0.222	4	0.0	13	23.1
1987	0.300	17	64.7	0.701	4	100.0	100.0	-	0	-	7	42.9
1988	0.139	35	25.7	-	0	-	-	0.040	2	0.0	0	-
1989	0.170	8	37.5	-	0	-	-	-	0	-	2	0.0
1990	0.147	17	23.5	0.370	1	0.0	100.0	0.384	3	0.0	2	0.0
1991	0.147	88	25.0	0.232	7	14.3	28.6	0.129	11	0.0	16	0.0
1992	0.131	104	27.9	0.157	8	0.0	25.0	0.979	4	100.0	10	30.0
1993	0.184	39	35.9	0.593	17	70.6	94.1	-	0	-	5	20.0
1994	0.089	36	13.9	-	0	-	-	0.131	3	0.0	3,000	100.0
1995	0.088	31	12.9	0.194	4	50.0	50.0	0.205	4	0.0	-	-
1996	0.071	6	0.0	-	0	-	-	0.259	5	0.0	-	-
1997	0.465	4	100.0	-	0	-	-	-	0	-	0.040	3
1998	-	0	-	-	0	-	-	0.095	6	0.0	0.371	2
1999	0.136	7	14.3	-	0	-	-	-	0	-	-	0
2000	-	0	-	-	0	-	-	-	0	-	0.704	9
2001	0.082	6	16.7	-	0	-	-	0.253	2	0.0	-	0
2002	0.071	30	0.0	-	0	-	-	-	0	-	-	0
2003	-	0	-	-	0	-	-	-	0	-	0.401	3

- indicates incalculable field. PEL - permissible exposure limit GM - geometric mean mg/m³ - milligrams per cubic meter
 OSHA - Occupational Safety and Health Administration REL - recommended exposure limit
 NOTE: The NIOSH REL is 0.2 mg/m³. See appendices for source description, methods, and agents.
 SOURCE: OSHA Integrated Management Information System.