WORK PRACTICES MANUAL FOR THE FRICTION MATERIALS INDUSTRY

The Secretary had been in contact with Mr. Reis of Johns-Manville Corporation concerning the possibilities of the Institute preparing a work practices manual for workers in the friction materials industry. Mr. Reis sent the Institute copies of work that the Asbestos Cement Pipe Producers Association had done in this area. One booklet by the A/C Pipe people was entitled, "Recommended Work Practices for A/C Pipe." They also published a booklet, "A/C Pipe and Health." This discussed the risks in use of asbestos in A/C Pipe. It mentioned studies that had been made with animals, and surveys of people exposed to asbestos in A/C Pipe. It concluded that there was no evidence that the proper use of asbestos cement pipe poses a hazard to health by reason of ingestion of asbestos fibers.

It was suggested that the Institute might consider working on a booklet on work practices for those in brake repair shops using asbestos containing friction materials. Perhaps the FMSI could develop work practices and distribute them to users. Government agencies might rely on or adapt such a program if the industry had a work practices manual in use.

Mr. Reis presented a slide program with audio prepared by the A/C Pipe Producers Association and which supplemented their booklets. This slide program covered respirable and ingested asbestos and minimized the risk to the public from ingestion of asbestos from A/C Pipe. A/C Pipe would be entirely satisfactory where the water is not aggressive (aggressiveness has to do with the hardness and the pH value of the water). The slide program concentrated on risks and minimized the public's risk from exposure to water carried in A/C Pipe. The slide program did not touch on work practices as such. The A/C Pipe Producers Association was aiming this program at larger users of A/C Pipe such as water-works, utilties and the general public.

It was stated that the first concern for FMSI would be a work practices manual rather than a study of the overall risk from exposure to asbestos from friction materials. It was also stated that Dr. Jacko of Bendix had addressed the risk to the general public from asbestos in friction materials in a paper prepared in 1973. A question was asked as to how difficult it would be for the FMSI to set up a program similar to the A/C Pipe Producers Association. Mr. Reis indicated that Johns-Manville would be willing to help in preparation of such a manual. It was stated that the objective for such a manual would be the users in the replacement market. Original equipment users are generally large organizations aware of the asbestos problem and can plan do their own work in controlling asbestos in their work places. Original equipment manufacturers might be involved where dealing with car dealers. It was stated that General Motors is working on a program for their dealers in this area.

It was stated that there were two tasks at hand: (1) work practices in the friction materials manufacturers' factories and (2) work practices in the customers' brake repair shops. The Asbestos Information Association had addressed the problem of work practices in factories and rebuilders in their work practices booklet entitled, "Fabrication and Use of Asbestos Friction Materials." There is information in these books concerning the OSHA standard, exhaust and dust collection, and methods for making fiber counts. The main target for an FMSI work practices manual would be the brake repair shops rather than manufacturers or rebuilders. It was stated that there would be little progress without management commitment. If the shop foreman is not behind the program there is unlikely to be true progress in asbestos control. It was