ASBESTOS STUDY COMMITTEE REPORT 1979

There has been no change in the asbestos standard to date, therefore we have had but one full committee meeting, and several task force meetings during the past year.

We are pleased to report that the work practices booklet recently published has sold 40,000 copies and is receiving widespread dissemination.

Recently we have been advised that the E.P.A. has had a study made by I.I.T. Research regarding asbestos. This report avers that there is a particularly high exposure risk in brake repair shops; we believe that if such risk does indeed exist, it is due principally to faulty work practices.

The F.M.S.I. work practices booklet addresses exactly to this segment of our industry, and we believe that the cautions and suggestions it contains are most timely. It is hoped that all members use this booklet and thus present a unified approach and good faith in facing up to our problems.

Mt. Sinai Hospital is under contract with N.I.O.S.H. to conduct a study of brake shops and we have cooperated with their Dr. William Nicholson in supplying information requested by him.

An item of deep concern is the asbestos industry sponsored legislation proposing a federal compensation fund financed by a ton usage assessment imposed upon each of us (first processor or sellers of an asbestos containing product). The ramifications of such legislation are many and while we as a committee cannot take a position without direction from you the board, we are solicitous of your views and assure you that we will vigorously pursue the avenues to which you direct us.

We suggest that since workmen's compensation has traditionally been within the province of the individual states, that it remain so. Efforts toward equalization of benefits among them are more meritorious than creation of still another federal regulation.

Respectfully submitted,

Harry H. Wagner

Harry H. Wagner, Chairman
F.M.S.I. Asbestos Study Committee

HHW:bav