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Intra Company

May 24, 1972

Mr. R. M. Quarles,
Division Safety Engineer

cc: Messrs. C. R. Barbour
J. R. Knauss

Subject: Hazardous Materials

As you will recall, we discussed hazardous materials at some length during my recent visit to Dearborn and the subject was covered in detail during the seminar we attended.

I collected a sample of the material removed from the brake drums, backing plates and brake shoes of a semi-trailer having its brakes relined in our garage, and am enclosing it with this communication. Since one of the primary ingredients of brake lining material is asbestos, I would like to have the sample analyzed by Mr. Paul Toth's Industrial Hygiene people to determine how hazardous the material is and what precautions should be taken by mechanics working on brakes.

Compressed air is frequently used in company garages (and commercial garages) to clean the dust off brake components and this practice loads the surrounding air with the brake dust particles.

Since we are heavily involved in brake test work and many of our employes are regularly exposed to the material, I would appreciate an early response to this inquiry.

Best Regards,

S. M. Luke, Supervisor
Administration Section
Arizona Proving Ground Department

SML/md

Enc.

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June 2, 1972

Mr. R. M. Quarles
Division Safety Engineer
Research and Engineering Center

Subject: Dust Sample Evaluation - Arizona Proving Ground

As requested, a cursory analysis was obtained on the settled dust sample of brake lining and drum dust submitted by the Arizona Proving Ground Department. It is impossible to give a percentage of free available asbestos, as asbestos is toxicologically important from a length of fiber standpoint. The majority of material in the sample is sub-micron size, but there is some material that appears fibrous.

The current Occupational and Safety and Health Act Threshold Limit Value for asbestos is not to exceed five fibers greater than five microns in length per milliliter of air. There is a proposed rules making change to take this limit downward to two fibers greater than five micron per ml. In addition to the TLV, peak values of single incident exposure are also proposed. The standard for asbestos further states that the cleanup of asbestos dust will be accomplished by vacuum cleaning or wet methods only.

Whether or not there is a hazard to the employes at the Arizona Proving Ground depends upon the operations and if there is airborne fibers of asbestos present during operations that exceed five microns in length. If management is of the opinion that dust generation is continuous or extremely heavy in peaks, then evaluation by air sampling would appear desirable.

If there are any questions or if we can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Henry B. Lick
Industrial Hygienist
Industrial Hygiene Unit

ms

cc J. A. Keller
J. R. Knauss

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