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Intra Company

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Transmission and Axle Engineering

February 23, 1977

Mr. G. F. Bolling

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Subject: Asbestos Usage

Reference: Your Communication of February 10, 1977 to P. D. Fadow, et al,
Same Subject

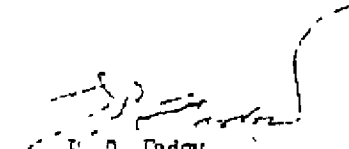
Transmission and Axle Engineering is concerned that the availability of asbestos containing components from our suppliers may be seriously affected if OSHA regulations become unduly restrictive.

It seems appropriate to develop a company position regarding the use of asbestos containing materials. Over the last several months, communications have originated from your office, Engineering and Research Staff, and Personnel and Organization Staff indicating two extremes: (1) Not to panic as OSHA requirements can be met, or (2) Completely eliminate asbestos as being the appropriate approach. Firm Company direction is needed to protect the products and avoid unnecessary expenditures.

Transmission and Axle Engineering has a major involvement in asbestos usage as all the automatic transmission bands and clutch plate facing materials contain 2% to 25% asbestos. An appropriate replacement for asbestos in these friction elements is not readily attainable, and for this reason, is of major concern. We estimate a program of one to three years is required for evaluation and durability testing of proposed asbestos substitutions.

Other asbestos containing items such as gaskets and phenolic molded converter reactor and thrust washers can be re-engineered, but one year's lead time and expenditures of \$1-2 million are required. See attachment.

It is Transmission and Axle Engineering's recommendation that a Corporate position on the continued use of asbestos be developed, including a contingency plan for asbestos substitutes/replacements on the affected components.


P. D. Fadow

JLM:ccm

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