file Asbestos

ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT

ALLIED-SIGNAL IS A MAJOR CONSUMER OF ASBESTOS FOR USE IN THE MANUFACTURING OF FRICTION MATERIALS FOR AUTOMOTIVE BRAKES. IN 1986, THE OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION PUT INTO PLACE A NEW LOWER ASBESTOS STANDARD THAT REDUCES THE PERMISSABLE WORKPLACE EXPOSURE FROM 2 FIBERS PER CUBIC CENTIMETER OF AIR TO 0.2 FIBERS. THE REGULATION ALSO MANDATES MORE EXTENSIVE MEDICAL SURVEILLANCE AND REQUIRES ENGINEERING AND OPERATIONAL CHANGES. OUR FACILITIES ARE IN BASIC COMPLIANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE OSHA REGULATION. AS ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS OF THE STANDARD BECOME EFFECTIVE, CONTINUED COMPLIANCE WILL REQUIRE ADDITIONAL INVESTMENT IN CONTROL EQUIPMENT.

RESEARCH EFFORTS IN DEVELOPMENT OF ASBESTOS FREE SUBSTITUTES FOR FRICTION MATERIALS CONTINUE TO BE SUCCESSFUL. MOST NEW U.S. AUTOMOBILES CONTAIN ASBESTOS-FREE BRAKING SYSTEMS. ALLIED-SIGNAL'S USE OF ASBESTOS DECLINED BY 22% IN THE PAST TWO YEARS. WE NOW CONSUME APPROXIMATELY 7% OF THE ASBESTOS FIBER IMPORTED INTO THE UNITED STATES.

HUMAN EXPOSURE TO ASBESTOS FIBERS IS KNOWN TO CAUSE VARIOUS LUNG DISEASES. ALLIED-SIGNAL IS A DEFENDENT IN A NUMBER OF LAWSUITS RELATED TO ASBESTOS CONTAINING PRODUCTS, AND WHILE THESE CASES ARE NOT A CAUSE FOR ALARM, THEY EMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF OUR GLOBAL ASBESTOS CONTROL PROGRAM.

THIS YEAR EPA PROPOSED A GRADUAL PHASEOUT AND ULTIMATELY A BAN OF ASBESTOS CONTAINING PRODUCTS BECAUSE OF ADVERSE HEALTH CONCERNS. AS A RESULT OF PUBLIC HEARINGS AND CONFLICTING TECHNICAL TESTIMONY PERTAINING TO RELATIVE RISK AND HAZARD ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES, EPA HAS PUT THE PROPOSED BAN ON HOLD. EAP IS NOW SEEKING ADDITIONAL DATA FROM INDUSTRY, INCLUDING ALLIED-SIGNAL AND THE FUTURE OF THIS INITIATIVE IS UNCERTAIN. WE HAVE SUPPORTED THE EPA PROPOSAL BECAUSE WE ARE WELL POSITIONED WITH DEVELOPMENT OF NON-ASBESTOS FRICTION MATERIALS AS LONG AS EPA ALLOWS FOR AN ADEQUATE TRANSITION PERIOD.

ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT

- ASBESTOS REGULATORY STANDARDS HAVE BEEN MADE MORE STRINGENT

- ALLIED-SIGNAL FACILITIES ARE IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE NEW OSHA ASBESTOS STANDARD

- OUR USE OF ASBESTOS CONTINUES TO DECLINE AS SUBSTITUTES ARE DEVELOPED

- EPA'S PROPOSED PHASE-OUT AND BAN OF ASBESTOS PRODUCTS IS ON HOLD; ALLIED SUPPORTS THE EPA INITIATIVE