

MEMORANDUM

TO: File

FROM: BLC

RE: Friction Materials Standards Institute

DATE: 10/1/84

Pursuant to ongoing asbestos litigation, I spoke with Ed Drislane, Executive Director of the Friction Materials Standards Institute (FMSI) on September 26, 1984. We discussed the two areas of concern: ongoing research concerning brake lining dust; and warnings on brake lining products.

1. Research: Mr. Drislane is aware of no ongoing research concerning brake lining dust, its decomposition and health effects. His only knowledge concerning research in this area is what is available through published medical and technical literature. He recommends that we contact the Asbestos Information Association for more information in this area.

2. Warnings: The basic model for the warning label on asbestos containing friction products came from the 1972 OSHA standard. Brake Lining Manufacturers, as a group, did not begin labelling their products until 1974-75, because of disagreement within the industry whether the OSHA Standard applied to encapsulated friction products.

The FMSI have published a one-page notice in their catalogs since 1977 entitled "Recommended Procedures for Reducing Asbestos Dust During Brake Servicing" (copy attached). In late 1978, the FMSI published 45,000 copies of the booklet "Friction Material Work Practices Guide" (copy attached) which was distributed to its members (brake lining manufacturers).

"The purpose of this booklet is to provide practical guidelines for brake and clutch service mechanics in the handling and processing of asbestos containing friction materials and in the maintenance and repair of brake and clutch assemblies...

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