In conjunction with foregoing actions, EPA has advised that agency also plans to develop a voluntary guidance document for friction materials which is principally expected to address brake repair.

As to CPSC, news media report of alleged health hazard from asbestos in hair dryers which occurred Mar. 28, combined with related follow-on considerations and EPA's investigation of asbestos, has resulted in reopening of possible regulation of consumer products containing asbestos by this body. Prior to hair dryer incident, CPSC staff was prepared to recommend "no further regulation at this time." Of interest is preliminary report that results of hair dryer tests performed by NIOSH at request of CPSC indicates that highest level of asbestos emitted by 30 appliances used is 0.04 f/cc. Final report from NIOSH is expected to be issued early Sept.

CPSC's draft ANPRM sets forth as regulatory approach that "exposure to any asbestos fibers from consumer products presents a health risk because there has not been demonstrated to be a threshold or no-effect level below which exposure to respirable asbestos fibers would be considered safe." Further, "The Commission believes that all non-essential uses of asbestos in consumer products from which asbestos fibers are released during reasonable forseeable conditions of use, including misuse, should be eliminated." In determining whether a use of asbestos is essential, draft ANPRM states Commission will consider a number of factors including but not limited to: the function performed by the asbestos in the product; benefit derived from the product or use of asbestos in the product; and cost and availability of substitutes for the asbestos.

DENNY OF EPA IS CONVINCED THAT CARS DONT NEED ASBESTOS BRAKES WANTS ASBESTOS OUT ASAP!

Formal issuance of ANPRM's by EPA and CPSC is being closely coordinated. They are expected to be published concurrently in the Federal Register about mid-October. Both will cover wide range of issues and solicit comments for consideration prior to publication of any notices of proposed rulemaking by two agencies.

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In anticipation of these regulatory initiatives, AIA/NA has:

. Arranged for and presented a technical review of asbestos-containing products and medical seminar on June 18 and Aug. 8 respectively at EPA headquarters.

. Formed an ad hoc committee for friction materials which is cooperating with EPA in development of a voluntary guidance document. FORD MOTOR PARTICIPATION??

are other companies in this

. Submitted comments on a report prepared by a consulting firm for EPA as part of agency's investigation of asbestos.

EPA and CPSC participants in Association's Industry-Government Conference on Sept. 19-20 are expected to provide more information on impending regulatory initiatives affecting the asbestos industry.

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