

MAR-83

AUG 05 1980

Battle Creek, MI

#2590

Mr. R. Reed

National Headquarters

731

July 25, 1980

Re: Asbestos Dust

In response to your inquiry regarding asbestos dust and the possible hazard to our employees.

Sears has taken a number of steps to ensure minimum exposure to our employees. Some four years ago we went to a pre-arc'd brake shoe, this eliminated the grinding, which in turn reduced dust. We also developed a new policy, that being, brakes were not to be blown clean with an air nozzle, instead a brush was to be used for cleaning (see Automotive Operating Guide, Safety Section, Page 174).

These two steps reduced much of the exposure to the mechanics. This left the accumulation of asbestos dust in the sytem itself when the drums are removed from the car. To ensure this was not a hazard to our employees, a number of independent studies were conducted in our Automotive Centers to monitor the asbestos dust in the air. The results of those studies have determined that we do not exceed O.S.H.A.'s maximum permissible level of asbestos dust in our brake operations. I would also like to add that studies conducted prior to the pre-arc'd shoes, found us to be under O.S.H.A.'s maximum permissible level at that time.

If you have any additional questions, please let me know.

J. W. McGann

JHM:mkw

cc: G. H. Looper, D/731

L. Sutton, D/731MW

Op. Levans, D/628

EXHIBIT	
NO.	P-31
DATE	1-18-84
EVD.	☐ IDENT ☒

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