

January 11, 1978

TO: Asbestos Study Committee

SUBJECT: Write-up on asbestos hazards for brake and clutch
service shops.

In November 1976, Mr. I. H. Weaver prepared a write-up entitled: "Asbestos Dust Hazards and Brake Lining and Clutch Service Operations." This was prepared for the Asbestos Information Association (AIA) to serve as the possible basis for an AIA pamphlet. This pamphlet would be a shop oriented pamphlet as contrasted to the public oriented AIA pamphlet entitled "Asbestos and Brake Linings."

Mr. Weaver in 1976 asked for comments. I failed to reply. I have now reviewed his draft and make the following comments:

- (1) Remove the second sentence, paragraph 2, relative to mesothelial tumors in persons involved with automobile brake servicing. I do not believe the relationship has been sufficiently documented, or that AIA should be the source of this statement if it is not fully documented.
- (2) Prior to the "RECOMMENDED PROCEDURES," or as a separate step, add the following:

Most friction materials manufacturers and rebuilders can provide brake linings, clutch facings or brake shoe assemblies finished without the need for further machining. Friction materials should be purchased lined to shoes, or ready for riveting or bolting to shoes, without the need for dust raising operations in the brake shop. If possible, brake repair specialists should not grind, drill, bevel or machine brake linings in the repair shop.

- (3) Under procedure 3, reword the first sentence as follows:

Dust shall first be cleaned from brake drums, backing plates, rotors, calipers, wheel cylinders and other brake parts and clutch assemblies.....

The wording I suggest broadens the scope to include disc brakes as well as drum brakes.

- (4) Under procedure 5, present the warning sign as in the OSHA regulation:

Caution
Contains Asbestos Fibers
Avoid Creating Dust
Breathing Asbestos Dust May Cause Serious Bodily Harm

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I do not feel we are free to recommend the NIOSH recommendation. I believe we must use the label as specifically detailed in the OSHA regulation, as I show it above.

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Please review this and be prepared to comment on it at the forthcoming Asbestos Study Committee meeting.

E. W. Drislane
Executive Director