

For large volume machining operations that operate on a continuous basis, the preferred dust collection device is a fabric filter or baghouse, with a heavy-duty exhaust fan as the suction source. The dust collector must meet the air-cleaning requirements of the Federal Environmental Protection Agency Emission Standard for Asbestos. Approval must be obtained from EPA for installation and operation of each system. Sources of information on EPA requirements and on design and operation of local exhaust systems are listed in the Appendix.

Other Methods of Minimizing Dust Exposure

Whenever possible friction materials should be cut to length with a shear or press brake rather than with a saw or abrasive cut-off wheel.

Dust generation can be minimized or eliminated during arcing of brake blocks by lathe turning at low speed rather than grinding.

Whenever possible machining and repair operations should be isolated from other work areas to prevent unnecessary exposure of other workers.

Good housekeeping is essential in a workplace where asbestos containing materials are handled. High efficiency industrial vacuum cleaners equipped with double or triple filtration units should be used for removing accumulations of asbestos dust and waste. See Appendix for information on suppliers of vacuum cleaners designed for use with asbestos dust.

Never use compressed air or dry sweeping for cleaning. Water or other dust suppressants should be applied when brooms are used. Dispose of asbestos dust and asbestos-contaminated waste in plastic bags or other sealed containers

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JM - 23