

October 5, 1976

Mr. Marc Collins
Airflex Plant
Eaton Corporation
9919 Clinton Road
Cleveland, Ohio 44111

Subject: Airborne Asbestos

Dear Marc,

I have your letter of October 1, 1976 and will comment on it and the other topic of our conversation, possible asbestos dust exposure by people who change or grind brake linings.

Taking the last item first, I can offer the following facts and opinions.

The August 14th, 1975 issue of the Wall Street Journal carried an article that is the cause of a lot of consternation from people who are exposed to the problems associated with the use of asbestos. A copy of the article is attached for your review.

In the article, a NIOSH spokesman makes a statement that I do not agree with and is the basis for a lot of unnecessary fears regarding the use of asbestos-containing products. In the second paragraph of the article, HEW reportedly said that, "garage personnel who change or grind brake linings are being exposed to potentially hazardous levels of airborne asbestos." If the statement had been made that, "garage personnel who change and grind brake linings --" rather than, "-- who change or grind brake linings--", I would not object. As written, it implies that the mere act of changing brake linings exposes personnel to high levels of airborne asbestos. This, in my opinion, is not the case as I will show later. However, I cannot disagree that the act of grinding asbestos-containing products may cause some liberation of asbestos, which may become airborne and could lead to people in the immediate area to become exposed to potentially hazardous levels of airborne asbestos. More about this later on.

In the next to the last paragraph of the article, the information is given (and I do not disagree with it in general) that asbestos dust can be generated where truck and bus linings are ground to fit brake drums or are resurfaced after use. However, I do disagree with the