PLAINTIFF'S
EXHIBIT
FD-453

Catalyst Seal Emissions

Problem

Emission from catalytic converter asbestos seals during assembly at Monroe and supplier facilities.

Reference

Ford Monroe Plant was visited on November 9, 1978 in order to observe the assembly of the asbestos seals on the catalytic converter and to observe the collection of an air sample by Industrial Hygiene during the assembly operation.

Background

MSD and outside fabricators have registered complaints of employees coughing and of particulates present in the assembly area.

Key Points

- The only protective covering offered are gloves. No separate laundering is provided.
- Fibers are visible on employee clothing and on assembly counter tops.
- Fibrous waste falls into a container through holes in the counter during assembly. A fan is focused on the same area to cool employees.
- Fibers could also be emitted during welding of the metal casing that encloses the catalytic converter assembly.
- There are no restrictions on smoking, eating or drinking in the assembly area.
- Employes are currently not receiving medical exams. (Labor Relations stated that employees have inquired when they would receive their exams after viewing a report on asbestos on the T.V. program "60 Minutes".

Required Action	Status
1. Determination of the exposure level	
a) NIOSH method	a) 2-4 weeks for test results (12-78)
b) Scanning Electron Microscope Analysis, (SEM)	b) 2-6 weeks for test results (12-78) Although the NIOSH fiber/cc level may be low, under SEM conditions, the count could be 1000X and represent those fibers which are actually carcinogenic (i.e., fibers less than 3 um in length).

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Required Action	Status
2. Recommend the following:	
a) Protective clothing be provided.	
b) No smoking, eating or drinking be allowed.	
c) A vacuum system for waste be installed.	
3. Implementation of a clear coat on the part.	3. Meeting scheduled for 11/15/78. Raybestos - Manhattan, Industrial Hygiene, Catalyst Engrg., and VME were represented. • Completion of Engineering Specification (12-78) • Submission of cost figures (12-78) • Visit planned to facility (1-79)
4. Elimination of asbestos material.	4. Engine Engineering is assessing substitutes. (However, does not appear feasible at this time)

Vehicle Materials Engineering
November, 1978

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