

Asbestos Study Comm

PLAINTIFF'S
EXHIBIT

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September 23, 1971

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WV-06126

Dr. H. G. Jacks
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Bendix Center
Southfield, Michigan #48075

Dear Mike:

While you were at the meeting of the Asbestos Study Committee last week, you asked for some information about the Friction Materials Standards Institute. I believe you were trying to understand the basic services that the Institute performs without getting into the detail as spelled out in the Constitution and By-Laws. However to be specific, I am enclosing a copy of the Constitution and By-Laws.

The Friction Materials Standards Institute, is made up of most of the United States manufacturers of brake linings and clutch facings. One of its earliest services was a copyrighted numbering system for the brake linings and clutch facings. In this way if a customer were ordering a set of brake linings to fit a 1963 Chevrolet, he would check our book and select #2065* for the fronts and #2006* for the rears. Most brake lining manufacturers would provide this lining with the #2065* and #2006* number. The various brake lining manufacturers make this lining to the dimensions spelled out for original equipment purposes from information we furnished them. We solicit and compile data on all new brake lining and clutch facing releases and we publish a book every other year, with supplements in the in-between year, which keeps the field up to date on the brake linings and clutch facings used on the cars and trucks they will be servicing. Further, we publish bulletins about six or eight times a year to bring the members up to date on any changes that are happening, when they happen.

Because of the multiplicity of brake shoes and the problems in determining which shoe belongs on which vehicles we also prepare a brake shoe identification catalog. The shoe assignments which we give are used by most manufacturers to describe the lining shoe package which they distribute in the after market.

All members of the Institute are allowed to use the F. M. S. I. numbering system which is copyrighted. Further, they can authorize their customers to use the F.M.S.I. numbering system in their catalogs and on their price sheets. As an example of the type of work the F.M.S.I. is doing currently in this area, we are working on a brake block identification book which would allow people in the field to identify the F.M.S.I. number for the block by making certain basic measurements. As you will note, our services are oriented to the replacement market.

Brake Performance Study Committee

Members of the Institute over the past ten years were being deluged with State legislation in the automotive safety area which was then followed by the Federal Government legislation in 1966 setting up under the Department of Transportation, what is now the

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- 2 -

September 23, 1971

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration - N.H.T.S.A. The Friction Materials Standards Institute organized a Committee to help give the various safety administrators guidance so that reasonable regulations would be issued. When regulations establishing brake lining certification tests were set up by such States as New York, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts and others, the Friction Materials Standards Institute worked with the administrators in establishing requirements. During various hearings in Washington for the N.H.T.S.A. on brake system safety regulations, the Friction Materials Standards Institute would review the proposed standards, prepare tests and compile comments on the proposed standards. We still maintain a close watch on Washington and the various States as regards legislation and regulations concerning brake linings. To this date, clutch facings have not been much of an item as regards automotive safety.

Asbestos Study Committee

This particular Committee, as you are aware, is newly formed with its obvious emphasis on asbestos. It may take a somewhat similar posture as the Brake Performance Study Committee and (1) disseminate information to the members, and (2) preparing formal comments to the various environmental agencies where they may be drawing up regulations that concern asbestos in brake linings or clutch facings.

Within the Institute we can take any reasonable steps that will further the friction materials industry in line with the Constitution and By-Laws. Among other things, the Institute has organized the accumulation of information on historical sales by the members of friction articles - brake blocks, disc brake linings, other brake linings and clutch facings. This information is submitted to a Certified Public Accountant who reviews the original input from the members and prepares the summaries of totals. This information in final form is confidential and is returned to the members.

As I do not believe you are interested in the Institute concerning our catalog information,, I am not sending any of this type data. Should you wish a copy of our Data Book and Shoe Catalog, please let me know. When I have received an approved copy of the minutes of our recent meeting, I will send you a copy. Dr. Spurgeon of course will be receiving a copy when the minutes are distributed.

Sincerely,

EDDr/slana/erc
Encs:

Executive Secretary