Internal
Memorandum

Bendix Research Laboratories

Date October 7, 1976 Letter No. Southfield, Michigan

To D. Bitondo

From S. K. Rhee

Subject Asbestos Exposure during Brake Lining Maintenance and Repair by A. N. Rohl et al.

These investigators used rather questionable experimental methods and consequently obtained questionable high asbestos counts. In addition, they either misinterpreted or misread our work on asbestos emissions (performed by M. Jacko and R. DuCharme in 1973). Regardless of the accuracy of their findings, however, I feel that brake wear debris poses potential health problems in brake repair shops or as road dust. Also, the asbestos issue is an emotional one. Thus, I can see a situation arising in the future in which Bendix may be forced not to use asbestos in friction materials either by Government actions or by customer requirements. As you know, GE and Hooker Chemical both have abandoned the use of asbestos in their filled resins, and GM is talking about taking asbestos out of their friction materials. Therefore I recommend that Bendix actively pursue the development of automotive friction materials containing no asbestos.

SKRhee

S. K. Rhee

SKR/vp

cc: G. T. Burton, Jr.
M. G. Jacko
B. W. Klein