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SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY
LAW DIVISION:MIDDLESEX COUNTY
DOCKET NO. L-095651-85

MARSHALL COATES, et ux.,

Plaintiffs

DEPOSITION UNDER
ORAL EXAMINATION

vs

OF

JACK L. KOBLIN

RAYMARK INDUSTRIES, et al.,

Defendants

ROBERT CAMPBELL, et ux.,

Plaintiffs,

vs

NATIONAL PARTS SUPPLY,

Defendants

DUPLICATE
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6-14-88

1 Q The document you just reviewed which had
2 the warning labels from '83 to '87 and '87 to present,
3 do you know where this document was generated from?

4 A No.

5 Q Do you have any idea how it appeared in
6 this packet?

7 A No, I didn't even see it until just now.

8 Q This is the first time you have seen this
9 document?

10 A Yes.

11 Q Do you have any idea if it was provided by
12 Mr. Maples?

13 A If I just saw it for the first time, I wouldn't
14 have any idea how it got there. Probably it got there
15 by Mr. Maples but I don't know.

16 Q Did there come a time in your position
17 with Chrysler that there was an awareness that exposure
18 to asbestos dust generated by asbestos brake linings
19 could cause cancer?

20 A I don't know how I can answer that question. I
21 would have to ask every employee of Chrysler whether
22 they have any knowledge like that.

23 Q Are you aware of any knowledge like that?

24 A No.

25 Q Do you have any idea why that warning

1 would be placed on an asbestos-containing product by
2 Chrysler?

3 MR. KUNDLA: You are talking about which
4 warning?

5 Q From '87 to present.

6 A Because somebody probably felt it was prudent to
7 do so. To protect Chrysler, not admitting there is,
8 but simply to protect Chrysler.

9 Q To protect Chrysler from what?

10 A From lawsuits and have a defense in lawsuits,
11 and if Chrysler was wrong, that Chrysler would want --
12 and if there is a danger, Chrysler wanted to warn
13 people who are its customers that that danger might
14 exist.

15 Q Do you have any information that leads you
16 to believe that Chrysler might be wrong?

17 A No.

18 MR. COLEMAN: I'm not sure -- wrong about
19 what?

20 MR. CIFALDI: What he just referred to.
21 Do you want it on or off the record?

22 MR. COLEMAN: Off the record is fine. I'm
23 not sure --

24 MR. CIFALDI: Off the record.

25 (Discussion off record.)

1 Q In the memo dated 11/1/83, which is page 2
2 of P-Chrysler-2, there's a discussion of part numbers
3 in the high risk category of brake components, clutch
4 facings, et cetera. Do you know what the high risk
5 category means?

6 A No.

7 Q When you got this memo, did you become the
8 least bit curious what the high risk category meant?

9 A No.

10 Q When you read this memo, did you do
11 anything?

12 A I don't know what you mean, did I do anything.

13 Q As a result of receiving this memo, did
14 you do anything?

15 A You have to let me see the exhibit.

16 Q Sure.

17 A I noted they took my suggestion and instituted a
18 warning and wrote back saying, thanks, I'm glad you did
19 it and I recommend you change the service manual
20 warning.

21 Q I guess we would have to ask Mr. Anderson
22 what he meant by high risk category. Is that correct?

23 A That's correct.

24 Q Just so I'm clear, what exactly were the
25 warnings placed on?

1 A The box that the replacement brake linings are
2 sent in or packaged in.

3 Q In addition to the box, were warnings
4 placed anywhere else?

5 A Not to my knowledge.

6 Q Were warnings put in service manuals?

7 A When?

8 Q Good question. Were they ever?

9 A Yes.

10 Q When?

11 A 1973.

12 MS. D'ANNUNZIO: '73?

13 THE WITNESS: '73.

14 Q Do you recall what the nature of the
15 warning was in the service manual in 1973?

16 A We just read it together.

17 Q So the warning that appeared in the 1984
18 manual was identical to the warning that appeared in
19 the 1973 manual?

20 A I don't know what you are talking about. What
21 you showed me I thought was the 1973 manual. That's
22 the only warning I'm aware of that was ever put in the
23 service manual.

24 Q I'm a little confused here. What do you
25 base your belief on that this was the 1973 service

1 manual?

2 A Because the only service manual I have ever seen
3 that had a warning in it was a 1973 service manual.
4 I'm assuming this is that warning. If that's a 1984
5 service manual, then I haven't seen it before.

6 Q To the best of your belief, there was a
7 warning in the 1973 service manual?

8 A Yes.

9 Q How did you first become aware of that
10 warning in the 1973 service manual?

11 A Because I went through all the service manuals I
12 could find.

13 Q Why did you go through all the service
14 manuals you could find, Mr. Koblin?

15 A To see if we ever made any warnings.

16 Q Was that in conjunction with some other
17 litigation?

18 A Yes.

19 Q Where does Chrysler keep the service
20 manuals you reviewed?

21 A I'm not sure because they are kept now by an
22 outside company somewhere.

23 Q Do you know who the company is?

24 A No.

25 Q Do you know who would know that?

1 A Some of the product liability people would know
2 that.

3 Q Can you give me a name?

4 A Kenneth Gluckman.

5 Q When did you make your review of the
6 service manuals?

7 A Sometime after 1978.

8 Q Do you possess copies of the sections you
9 deemed relevant to the asbestos litigation?

10 A No, the only part that was relevant to asbestos
11 litigation was that part we just talked about.

12 Q Based on your review of those service
13 manuals, would it be a correct statement that that
14 warning appeared in every service manual after 1973?

15 A No, that would be incorrect.

16 Q What would be a correct statement?

17 A It appeared in the 1973 service manual.

18 Q The service manuals after 1973 that you
19 reviewed did not contain that warning?

20 A That is right.

21 Q To your knowledge did that warning ever
22 appear after 1973?

23 A No.

24 MR. CIFALDI: At this time I would like to
25 request the service manuals from Chrysler

1 Corporation from 1960 forward, and most
2 specifically I would like to request the service
3 manual which has been referred to here today.

4 Q Other than the service manual I showed
5 you, there's an indication "1984 front wheel drive
6 service manual" written on the top. Do you have any
7 idea who wrote that or where that came from?

8 A No.

9 Q Do you have anything that would lead you
10 to believe that that information was indeed contained
11 in the 1984 service manual?

12 A No.

13 Q Now that we are back in 1973, do you have
14 any idea why a warning was put in the service manual?

15 A No.

16 Q Do you know who would have an idea about
17 that?

18 A No. As a matter of fact, I tried to find out
19 and couldn't.

20 Q Thank you for volunteering that
21 information.

22 MR. CIFALDI: At this time I would like to
23 request that Chrysler supply me with the name of
24 the individual or individuals that are
25 knowledgeable as to the warning that was placed

1 in the service manual in 1973, and certainly I
2 believe that was encompassed by my Deposition
3 Notice.

4 MR. KUNDLA: The fact somebody already
5 tried to locate that person and has been
6 unsuccessful, that's probably an indication of
7 what the future response to that request will
8 be.

9 MR. CIPALDI: No offense intended but
10 certainly I have a right to inquire as to the
11 basis of that response.

12 MR. KUNDLA: I fully understand that.

13 Q I bet you couldn't find the person
14 responsible for removing that from the service manual
15 either, right?

16 A That is right.

17 Q Based on your review of the service
18 manuals, was there any indication in the manual in the
19 front somewhere as to who was responsible for the
20 preparation of the manual?

21 A No, I don't remember.

22 Q Do you know if Chrysler prints those
23 manuals in-house or they send them out?

24 A Probably send them out.

25 Q If I was a person that worked in some area

1 that used Chrysler products and I got a service manual
2 in 1973 and it had this warning in it and I had some
3 questions, who would I call?

4 MR. KUNDLA: Objection to the form. You
5 can answer if know.

6 A Depends on what questions you have. I can't
7 answer that.

8 Q Say I had a question about the warning.

9 A I don't know. I don't know who you would call.

10 Q Is there any department that handles
11 questions on service manuals at Chrysler?

12 A I don't know.

13 Q Who would have that type of information?

14 A I don't know.

15 Q Any department?

16 A Might be.

17 Q Is there a customer information
18 department?

19 A I don't know. There might be.

20 Q Is there any type of document that
21 Chrysler has that maybe sets forth the particular
22 departments involved with the corporation and their
23 function?

24 A No, not that I have ever seen.

25 MR. CIFALDI: At this time I would like to