

recommended for asbestos when using the brake cleaning methods described in Part IV of this guidance can only protect a mechanic while the respirator is being worn. Since any of the brake cleaning methods described in Part IV could contaminate a garage with brake dust, mechanics and other employees would have to wear such a respirator all day to be protected. In addition, effective respirator use requires a complete respiratory protection program, including worker training, medical evaluations, proper respirator selection and maintenance, fit testing, and periodic inspections. Furthermore, NIOSH and EPA recommend only certain air-supplied respirators for asbestos exposure. These respirators could be very cumbersome in a garage setting.

Air-purifying respirators with HEPA cartridges may be appropriate for secondary protection during floor cleaning, filter or collection bag changing, and waste disposal. Air purifying respirators with HEPA cartridges should be used only as a precaution against the accidental disturbance of asbestos, and not as a substitute for effective engineering controls. It should be noted that, while NIOSH and EPA do not recommend the use of air-purifying respirators with HEPA cartridges in asbestos environments, various existing regulations currently allow their use.

Additional Information

This guidance was prepared to support technical materials being developed by the Federal Brake Mechanic Education Program under EPA's Asbestos Action Program. The following are additional sources of information on asbestos:

EPA Regional Asbestos Coordinators

(CT, MA, ME, NH, RI, VT)
EPA Region I
JFK Federal Building
Boston, MA 02203
(617) 223-0585

(NJ,NY,PR,VI)
EPA Region II
Woodbridge Avenue
Edison, NJ 08837
(201) 321-6668

(DE, MD, PA, VA, WV)
EPA Region III
Curtis Building
6th and Walnut Streets
Philadelphia, PA 19106
(215) 597-9859

(AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC, TN)
EPA Region IV
345 Courtland St., N.E.
Atlanta, GA 30365
(404) 881-3864

(IL, IN, MI, MN, OH, WI)
EPA Region V
230 S. Dearborn St.
Chicago, IL 60604
(312) 886-6003

(AR, LA, NM, OK, TX)