

FILE NAME: General Motors (GM)

DATE: 1976 Sept 28

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DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Letter from GE Industrial Hygiene to Circle Buick-East [NY] RE Asbestos with Data Report

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September 28, 1976

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Mr. T. Ploucha
Manager
Circle Buick-East
1110 First Avenue
New York, New York

Re: Industrial Hygiene Survey of Circle Buick-East,
New York City

Dear Mr. Ploucha:

On December 11, 1975 a survey was made at Circle Buick-East, New York City, to determine the nature and extent of employe exposures to asbestos and carbon monoxide. Pertinent matters were discussed with Messrs. T. Ploucha, E. J. Marino, J. Paridis and W. C. McRorie. The survey was conducted by the writer.

Asbestos

In response to an alert issued on August 8, 1975 by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health indicating a potential health hazard for persons exposed to asbestos during the servicing of motor vehicle brake and clutch assemblies, air tests were made to evaluate the extent of employe exposures during routine brake servicing.

During this operation, wheels were removed, residual dust dumped, and where needed, brake components removed and replaced. At no time was dust removed by blowing with compressed air.

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The OSHA Asbestos Standard stipulates that employee exposures to asbestos shall not exceed the eight-hour, time-weighted average of 2 fibers, greater than 5 micrometers in length, per cubic centimeter of air sampled (fibers/cc). At no time can employee exposures exceed the ceiling limit of 10 fibers/cc. The results of air tests indicate that all exposures were within accepted limits. No changes are recommended.

Recently, the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission clarified which employees should receive OSHA-required medical examinations. The Commission ruled that medical examinations must be administered to employees who have any exposures to asbestos. Dr. R. G. Wiencek, GM Medical Director, has requested that Dr. M. A. Pace, GM Building, New York, be contacted to make whatever additional arrangements are necessary.

Results of Tests for Asbestos

Test No.	Employee and/or Operation	Asbestos fibers/cc
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The following air tests were made while replacing the brake linings on a Buick Estate Wagon. (The brake mechanic remarked that this was a particularly "dusty" vehicle). All tests were made concurrently. Sampling time 94 minutes.

1	General condition (GC) measured at left rear wheel.	0.1
2	GC at the left front wheel.	ND*
3	GC at the right front wheel.	ND
4	GC at the right rear wheel.	0.1
5	Adrien Blanchet (075-38-9076), brake mechanic. Wore approved respirator.	ND

*ND = None Detected.

Mr. T. Plouche

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Carbon Monoxide

Short-term air tests for carbon monoxide were made throughout the service department to determine the effectiveness of wall exhaust system. Carbon monoxide was measured with an MSA Universal Pump and indicator tubes.

OSHA Regulations stipulate employee exposures to carbon monoxide shall not exceed the eight-hour, time-weighted average of 50 parts per million parts of air by volume, (ppm). Since the results of Tests 3, 4 and 8 exceed the permissible exposure limit, it is suggested that more extensive air testing be performed to determine the eight-hour, time-weighted average concentrations.

Results of Tests for Carbon Monoxide

Test No.	Location	Carbon Monoxide ppm
1 & 2	General condition (GC) measured in service reception area (9:15AM-9:30AM). Windows closed.	10, 15
3 & 4	GC measured in brake service area. (9:45AM). Windows closed. Typical vehicle traffic.	120, 120
5	Repetition of Tests 3 and 4. Windows open.	10
6 & 7	GC measured in northeast corner, second floor.	30, 35
8	GC measured in southwest corner, second floor. Moderate vehicular traffic from elevator.	

Please advise us of any corrective action taken. We look forward to being of assistance to you in the future.

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W. E. Krebs, Ph.D.