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Personnel and Organization Su

August 3, 1973

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Subject: Vehicle Brake Rebuilding

Recent industrial hygiene studies have demonstrated overexposure to asbestos fiber in air during certain vehicle brake rebuilding and inspection operations. Overexposure occurred when brakes and brake drums were cleaned using compressed air blowoff. In order to preclude overexposure to asbestos fiber in air, the following procedure is recommended:

- Vehicle brakes and brake drums shall be cleaned using an industrial type vacuum cleaner with a filtering system efficient to a three micron particle size. Under no circumstances shall compressed air blowoff be used to clean brakes and brake drums.

- Disposal of asbestos laden dust from the vacuum shall be done by wet methods of dust suppression or the employe performing the operation shall use a respirator specified by the U.S. Bureau of Mines for pneumoconiosis producing dust under approvals 21C and Schedule 21. Approval 21C specifies single use respirators approved for pneumoconiosis producing dusts.

- Disposal of asbestos laden waste from the vacuum cleaner shall be in sealed containers labeled per subparagraph g and h, Federal Register 1910.93(a), pages 22143 and 22144 (OSHA).

Paul E. Toth

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cc: D. L. Block, M.D.
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