ABSTRACT

Data obtained on asbestos exposure of garage mechanics during brake lining maintenance and repair work show that fiber concentrations frequently in excess of regulated limits, are common. The presence of chrysotile, ranging from 2 to 15 percent, in brake drum dusts, was demonstrated by x-ray diffraction, transmission electron microscopy, selected area electron diffraction and electron microprobe analyses. Unaltered chrysotile was found, both in fiber and fibril form, in air and brake drum dust samples. The chrysotile asbestos content of personal air samples, taken during automobile brake repair work, was measured both by optical and electron microscopic techniques. While a positive correlation exists between the types of measurements, the present technique of optically counting asbestos fibers may considerably underestimate the levels of total asbestos exposure.

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