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PLAINTIFF'S
EXHIBIT
FD-19a

Inter Office

Car Product Development Group

November 15, 1977

To: C. R. Barbour

cc: G. S. Amber
P. E. Toth

Subject: Health Hazards Relating to Brake Lining Repair

In August 1973 the attached letter was directed to General Services Garage areas informing them of procedures in minimizing airborne asbestos in vehicle brake rebuilding and inspection operations. A study concerning asbestos exposure of garage mechanics during brake lining maintenance, conducted by Mt. Sinai School of Medicine in 1975, concluded that airborne fiber concentration frequently exceeded the current regulated limits. It was found that asbestos fibers blown into the atmosphere by air blasts used to clean brake parts was the major contributor, and that areas remote from the actual cleaning contained unacceptable asbestos levels. These findings convinced NIOSH (National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health) to recently award a $180,060 contract to Mt. Sinai to determine the health hazards associated with exposure to asbestos in these operations. Concurrently a $64,522 contract was let to Texas A&M Research Foundation to determine and document the collection efficiency of industrial vacuum units and techniques for disposal of asbestos waste in brake and clutch servicing industries.

In view of the previous results and the ongoing studies, and previous Ford action in this area (see Maintenance Bulletin 137 attached) garage areas within Car Engineering are reminded that the exposure of employees to airborne asbestos should be limited by restricting the use or location of air blast cleaning of brake parts or assemblies. In addition, all garage areas are to plan for complete elimination of this practice and replacement by vacuum or other methods to eliminate airborne asbestos hazards. Future developments relating to the study will be transmitted upon receipt to all affected operations.

W. A. Goering

Attachments:

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