Article No. 83-22-1

ASBESTOS BRAKE AND CLUTCH SERVICING

FORD
ALL VEHICLES – ALL MODEL YEARS

LINCOLN-MERCURY
ALL VEHICLES – ALL MODEL YEARS

LIGHT TRUCKS
ALL VEHICLES – ALL MODEL YEARS

MEDIUM/HEAVY TRUCKS
ALL VEHICLES – ALL MODEL YEARS

The purpose of this article is to re-emphasize asbestos health hazard warnings contained in the shop manuals.

Breathing asbestos dust is hazardous to your health. Dust and dirt present on automobiles and truck brake and clutch assemblies may contain asbestos fibers that are hazardous to your health when made airborne with compressed air or dry brushing.

The following procedures are recommended to minimize asbestos dust exposures during brake and clutch servicing of automobiles, trucks, tractors and trailers. These procedures are consistent with asbestos regulations set forth by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). Adherence to these procedures will eliminate exposures to asbestos during brake and clutch servicing.

An area should be designated for all brake and clutch services. Entrances to this area must be posted with the following sign:

ASBESTOS
Dust Hazard
Avoid Breathing Dust
Wear Assigned Protective Equipment
Do Not Remain In Area Unless Your Work Requires It
Breathing Asbestos Dust May Cause
Asbestosis and Cancer

Only essential personnel should be present in the immediate maintenance area during brake and clutch servicing.

During brake servicing, a toxic dust air purifying respirator, either single-use or replaceable cartridge as approved by the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) or by the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) shall be worn during all procedures from removal of wheels to reassembly. An example of an acceptable respirator is the 3M-9910 or 9920.

During manual clutch servicing such a respirator shall be worn during removal and cleaning of the clutch, pressure plate, and housing assembly, and during the installation of the new clutch assembly.

Wheel brake assemblies and clutch facing must be cleaned using a vacuum cleaner recommended for use with asbestos fibers. A vacuum for this purpose is available from the Rotunda Equipment Catalog. Similar vacuums are also manufactured by Nilfish and Hako ("Minuteman"). If additional cleaning is necessary, a rag soaked with water or a brake and clutch washer must be used.

Grinding or sanding on brake linings, pads, rotors, drums, or clutch facings shall be done only while using properly exhaust-ventilated equipment. A respirator must be worn while performing these operations.

During removal of vacuum bags, an approved respirator, as described above, shall be worn. Industrial vacuum cleaner bags containing asbestos dust, cloths used for wiping brake and clutch assemblies, and other asbestos-contaminated debris shall be sealed in plastic bags and labeled with the following warning label printed in letters of sufficient size and contrast to be readily visible and legible:

CAUTION
Contains Asbestos Fibers
Avoid Breathing Dust
Breathing Asbestos Dust May Cause
Asbestosis and Cancer

All asbestos waste must be disposed in accordance with OSHA and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) asbestos regulations. Asbestos waste must not be incinerated or disposed in community water supplies.

All floor cleaning in the asbestos servicing area and clean-up of waste from grinding or sanding must be done using an approved vacuum cleaner while wearing a proper respirator.

If there are any questions concerning these procedures, the Ford Motor Company Industrial Hygiene Department may be contacted at: (313) 337-8955.

OTHER APPLICABLE ARTICLES: None
WARRANTY STATUS: "INFORMATION ONLY"