produce friction materials with non-asbestos formulations has existed for many years. The problem has been to do so without a major price and weight penalty." Abex admits technology for a non-asbestos brake linings has existed for many years prior to 1980, and prior to Plaintiff's exposure to Abex's asbestos-containing brake linings. Abex, in complete indifference to and in conscious disregard to the safety of individuals such as the Plaintiff, had made a conscious decision not to utilize the available technology to produce a non-asbestos brake lining because Abex would lose profits. Abex put its bottom line ahead of the health and safety of its workers and individuals it knew would be exposed to the danger nature of its asbestos-containing brake linings.

Prior to 1974, the first year Plaintiff was exposed to Abex's asbestos-containing brake linings, Abex knew exposure to asbestos dust from their brake linings was unreasonably dangerous to the class of persons of which Plaintiff was a member. In fact, Abex's own medical director, C.C. Blackwell, Jr., M.D., in an October 13, 1964 letter to Abex's Assistant General Purchasing Agent, Plaintiff's Exhibit 33, acknowledges "(T)he problem of mesotheliomas in individuals exposed to asbestos is pretty well known in industry." A logical inference from the letter can be made that the industry referred to in the letter is the friction materials industry, which includes Abex. Further, a logical inference can be made Abex is aware that individuals exposed to asbestos-containing friction products are at risk to develop mesothelioma.

In a 1973 speech by the Chairman of the Friction Materials Standards Institute (FMSI) at their annual meeting in which Abex was present, Plaintiff's Exhibit FM54 and FM55, the FMSI relates to its members its conclusions, amongst others, that (1) all major commercial types of asbestos can cause cancer, and (2) all commercial types of asbestos may be responsible for mesothelioma. The FMSI Chairman points out that since its members, including Abex, use