

A fixed sampling period of some 5 min was chosen for the determination of mass concentrations—this being longer than required for the blowing operation but sufficient to cover that required for the alternative cleaning methods. The dust collected by the static sampler close to the brake assembly gave an equivalent concentration of 114 mg/m³ and that for the personal air sampler 42 mg/m³. It is probable that many of the particles included were larger than respirable size. The few asbestos fibres counted on membrane filter samples gave a concentration of the order 3–5 fibres/cm³.

ALTERNATIVE CLEANING METHODS

Initial approaches were to try the use of fixed and hand-held extractors to collect the dust particles removed by hand-brushing with a small paint brush. Fixed extractors, although reasonably efficient, were rejected because of restrictions which these placed upon the work by confining it to one area. Both operatives and supervision were unhappy about being confined to one work area—preferring to retain flexibility and carry out the work as they had previously done, wherever the vehicle happened to be. Portable extraction equipment was clearly required and after some preliminary enquiries, a BVC industrial vacuum cleaner was selected for use in experimental work. It is of fairly conventional type, powered by a $\frac{3}{4}$ h.p. motor and supplied with disposable paper bags in addition to the normal cloth bag. The paper bags are fitted in a manner which allows them to be sealed fairly easily before removal. To trap any particulates which might pass through the paper and cloth bags, an external, multi-layer filter was provided for fitting to the air outlet end of the cleaner. Preliminary experiments established that some brake dust particles were passing the paper and cloth bags but these were trapped by the externally fitted filter. Sampling at the exit side of the filter established that no particles passed the filter.

CONDITIONS OBTAINED USING THE VACUUM CLEANER AS A SOURCE OF EXTRACTION

The first technique tried was to use the nozzle of the cleaner, hand-held as a source of local extraction whilst the dust deposits were disturbed with a small paint brush held in the other hand. The Tyndall Beam showed that some dust was escaping into the environment. Objective measurements are summarized in Table 2.

TABLE 2. RESULTS OF KOHMETER SAMPLES DURING BRUSHING AND
WITH LOCAL EXTRACTION

Sample	Number of brake dust particles/5 cm ³
Taken at start of process	1070
Taken about 1 min later	404
Taken about 2 min later	426
Taken at end of process	446