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DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Memo - Employee Exposure to Asbestos Fibers

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Inter Office

Chassis Division
Canton Forge Plant

August 13, 1973

Mr. R. D. Byrom
Safety Engineer
Van Dyke

cc: Mr. G. Spahn
Mr. D. Brown

Subject: Employe Exposure to Asbestos Fibers

Asbestos fibers in the form of Johns-Mansville "transite" boards are used in all areas of the Canton Forge Plant as insulating end, side and bottom plates on induction heating coils, and as heat shields to protect personnel and machinery from gas furnace flue gas discharge.

Heat shields are generally standard boards of uniform size and no machining or excessive handling is required. However, for the various induction heaters throughout the plant, approximately 50 different transite details are required, each requiring a great deal of machining.

At this time, we know of no effective substitute for this material in this application, and your assistance is requested in investigating this application and locating an acceptable substitute.

To bring this plant into compliance with Ford and OSHA Standards regarding use of asbestos, we are proceeding with plans to purchase services of an outside machining source to reproduce transite details as required, using samples of plates which the plant will supply. We are also proceeding to produce drawings on all necessary details as soon as practical so that a blanket order may be obtained and a sufficient supply of machined plates may be kept on hand.

However, the stocking of a great number of plates in 50 different configurations and the inability to safely and legally make even the most minor in-plant adjustment to the configuration of these details will be extremely expensive and

could result in increased induction heater downtime and loss of production. For these reasons, it is imperative that the use of asbestos fibers in this application be eliminated as soon as possible.

K. L. Yeats, Manager
Plant Engineering Department

RC/lk

Info. copy -

Mr. J. L. Crandall
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