

9.2 Will stricter regulations export the jobs of American workers?

Most of our members support the principles of free trade. Some have manufacturing facilities in other countries. Others sell their products worldwide. Others have licensing agreements with foreign manufacturers. And, the Institute has eighteen Regional members--non resident manufacturers. Where competition is free and un-restricted the domestic manufacturers can compete. However, if the proposed regulations are implemented, domestic manufacturers will be working with the most restrictive exposure levels in the world. While some multi-national companies indicate that they will go to the same exposure levels worldwide, they are a minority. Except for Great Britain and the Province of Ontario, we are not aware of other jurisdictions with numerical exposure levels.

If the capital and on-going costs for compliance with the proposed regulations go significantly beyond those costs scheduled for compliance with the July 1, 1976 exposure level, brake linings, brake blocks, and clutch facings manufactured in foreign countries--without asbestos control--will be even more price competitive than now. And in today's replacement market, they are increasing their share of the market steadily. In a recent Labor Department notice on the application of Wagner Electric Corporation employees for worker adjustment assistance, it was stated:

Imports of automotive brake products like or directly competitive with those produced at the Plymouth Avenue St. Louis plant...increased in value from \$46,000,000 in 1970 to \$118,000,000 in 1974. The ratio of imports to domestic consumption (I/C) and production (I/P)