

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS BULLETIN

DATE 8/22/83	BULLETIN TITLE Industrial Hygiene	RESPONSIBLE DEPT Employee Health Services	BULLETIN NO 4a
SUBJECT Asbestos Brake and Clutch Servicing -- (Supplement to Bulletin No. 4)	SUPERSEDES New	DATED	

The following procedures are recommended to minimize asbestos dust exposures during brake and clutch servicing of trucks, tractors, trailers, automobiles, locomotives, forklifts, and tow tugs. Strict adherence to these procedures will eliminate exposures of mechanics to asbestos during brake and clutch servicing.

1. An area should be designated for all brake and clutch repairs. The normal maintenance area for tug tractors and forklift trucks could serve as the designated area for these plant vehicles. Entrances into this area shall be posted during brake and clutch servicing with an asbestos exposure warning 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

2. Only essential personnel should be present in the immediate maintenance area during brake and clutch servicing.
3. During brake servicing, an air purifying respirator, either single-use or with replaceable particulate filter(s), as approved by Industrial Hygiene and Mining Enforcement and Safety Administration (formerly Bureau of Mines) or NIOSH, shall be worn during all procedures starting with removal of wheel and including reassembly. During manual clutch servicing, such a respirator shall be worn during removal and cleaning of clutch, pressure plate, and housing assembly, and during installation of new clutch assembly.
4. Dust shall first be cleaned from brake drums, brake backing plates, brake assemblies and clutch assemblies using an industrial type vacuum cleaner equipped with a high efficiency filter system (99% efficiency for 0.3 μ m diameter aerosols). After vacuum cleaning, any remaining dust shall be removed using a rag soaked in water and wrung until nearly dry. Under no circumstances shall compressed air or dry brushing be used for cleaning. (See Industrial Hygiene Bulletin No. 4 for approved vacuum cleaners.)
5. During arcing and riveting operations, an approved respirator, as described in (3) above, shall be worn. Grinding (arcing) machines shall be provided with local exhaust ventilation such that exposures are maintained below the OSHA asbestos standard (29 CFR 1910.1001). At a minimum, dust bag of the arcing machine shall be removed and replaced with hose of high efficiency industrial vacuum described in (4) above.
6. During removal of vacuum bags, an approved respirator, as described in (3) 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 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

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