



Inter Office

Transmission and Chassis Division  
General Office

July 20, 1983

To: Engineering Managers  
Industrial Relations Managers  
Safety Engineers  
Plant Physicians

cc: Plant Managers Mr. J. M. Poe  
Mr. P. G. Gross Mr. R. S. Pomaroli  
Mr. M. B. Leyda Mr. R. L. Smith  
Mr. E. M. Nelson

Subject: Utilization of Contractors to Effect the Removal of Asbestos  
Associated with Renovation or Demolition

In recognition of the potential health risks of friable asbestos and in response to public concern, various regulatory agencies, i.e., OSHA, have placed very severe restrictions on work practices associated with intrusion into asbestos bearing materials. We know that the health community unquestionably accepts linkage between the inhalation of asbestos fibers and such lung disorders as asbestosis (pneumoconiosis) and mesothelioma (tumor).

Two recent T&C asbestos work situations demonstrated to our satisfaction that we are not equipped to perform significant asbestos intrusion on an occasional basis. The cost and/or inconvenience associated with the utilization of a specialized contractor is more than justified by the elimination of potential employee health risks. Accordingly, it shall be T&C Division's safety policy to utilize a contractor to effect the removal of asbestos associated with renovation or demolition. Any outside contracting should be consistent with the outside contracting clearance procedure provided for in the current Ford-UAW agreement.

The policy envisions the exercise of local judgment on a task to task basis. For example:

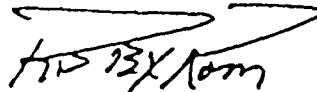
It would not be practical to assume a contractor will be utilized to perform such tasks as removing the asbestos from a valve bonnet to effect a gasket repair. All such decisions should be based upon the understanding that all material suspected as containing asbestos shall be treated as if it were asbestos until proven otherwise. All asbestos removal shall be performed in accordance with the attached industrial hygiene instructions. Medical surveillance and record keeping on an employee work life basis is required, and we should continue to search for and discontinue the use of any maintenance or construction materials containing friable asbestos.

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Included with this communication is a copy of a seminar hand-out entitled "Asbestos Removal", prepared by the American Association of General Contractors in conjunction with the Michigan Department of Health. Although it is slanted towards the utilization of contractors, even a casual review provides a good understanding of the scope of the problem, the health risks and the detail of the control required in the planning and conduct of asbestos removal.

Any questions or comments regarding this communication should be directed to the undersigned on 523-4720.

  
R. D. Byrom

Attachments  
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