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to Industrial Hygiene Mailing List

FROM Corporate Industrial Hygiene

DATE January 31, 1983

SUBJECT Asbestos Exposures from Motor Brakes

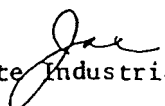
CURING PRESSES in our tire plants are equipped with a press-open motor which has a friction type brake. From time to time plant personnel are required to change the brake linings of these motors (STEARNS MOTOR BRAKE LININGS). The motors are enclosed and require that the cover be removed to change the brake linings. Standard procedure has been to use compressed air to blow out any dust or residue found inside the cover.

The brake manufacturer has informed us that these brake linings contain 40-45% asbestos. Based on this information, we advise all plants to do the following:

1. Discontinue the use of compressed air to clean out motor housings during repair or maintenance operations. Use only vacuum cleaning methods to collect or remove dust/residue from motors with brakes.
2. In the interim, while vacuum cleaning equipment is being obtained, plant Industrial Hygiene personnel should perform air monitoring during brake lining change operations to determine personnel exposures to airborne asbestos fibers. If TWAg concentrations are greater than 1 FIBER/CC, employees should be required to wear NIOSH approved respirators during these operations. If TWAg concentrations are greater than 0.1 FIBER/CC, then the Medical provisions of the OSHA Asbestos Standard apply (29 CFR 1910.1001). Also, refer to the Medical-Industrial Hygiene Manual, Dr Johnson's letter of 2/5/79, as well as portions of SPL 81-82.

Corporate Engineering has been contacted to determine all motors that are equipped with brakes in this category and to investigate the feasibility of substitute brake materials.

If you have any questions, contact Corporate Industrial Hygiene.

Manager 
Corporate Industrial Hygiene

J L Holtshouser
pb