As point source collection of airborne asbestos fibers is not feasible due to the inherent design of the Preform units, enclosure of the presses and/or redesign of the existing hoods above the preform benches may be an acceptable alternative. Exhaust ventilation should also be provided at the mix bins and weigh scales. Intimate handling during this phase of the preform cycle contributes significantly to the total exposure.

Automation of all or any part of the preform cycle should be investigated as a possible means of eliminating exposures.

Samples numbered 25 through 32 were collected at representative work stations throughout the Block Finish Department, including Inspection and Packaging and the Printer Machine. As indicated, four of the eight samples exceeded the 5 fiber limit. Exposures in this department can be primarily attributed to continuous handling of the dusty brake shoes, although grinding and drilling may be contributing incidentally to the airborne concentrations. Please note the increased concentrations collected from Inspection and Packaging where exposure is caused exclusively by handling.

To control asbestos exposures in Block Finishing, the blocks should be thoroughly cleaned by brushing, vacuuming, and/or the use of enclosed air pressure prior to extensive handling in the Block Finish Department. Final removal of loose material should also be done after block finishing and before the shoes are inspected and packaged for shipment.

None of the samples collected in General Compounding exceeded the 5 fiber limit, although two of the samples closely approached it. (Refer to sample Nos. 20 & 57) Also please note that all but three of the Compounding samples exceeded the projected limit of 2 fibers/ml.

To aid in reducing airborne asbestos fibers throughout General Compounding, the feasibility of bulk storage of asbestos should be investigated in conjunction with enclosed conveyance or vacuum transport of the fibers. The elimination of bagged asbestos would decrease required handling and at the same time limit personnel exposures. It is our understanding that asbestos in compressed pellet form is available as a possible replacement for the loose fibrous product. If adaptable to brake shoe manufacturing processes, use of the pelletized product should be seriously considered.