

in these applications. About 145 different replacement clutch plates or discs are currently distributed by the Service Parts Operations of GM. Below is a list of the part numbers and a description of the replacement clutch plates or discs (as of 1994) that GM has identified as containing asbestos:

GM does not have records that identify all asbestos-containing clutch plates or discs installed as original equipment in millions of cars or trucks or sold as replacement parts from 1950 to 1990. GM has engineering drawings for clutch plates or discs for only part of this period. These drawings generally identify only the supplier and supplier number for the assembly or for the friction material, not the content of the friction material. The formulations that the manufacturers of friction materials use are their trade secrets and are not divulged to GM.

Between 1950 and 1990, both asbestos-containing and non-asbestos-containing clutch plates or discs have been used as original equipment in GM cars and trucks with manual transmissions. Trying to identify all of the friction materials used, by type of car or truck, for that many years would take many person-years of effort. For a particular year and car or truck, one would have to determine what engines and manual transmissions were available, then find engineering parts lists or other documents to identify the part numbers for the clutch assemblies, then obtain the engineering drawings for those assemblies and identify the clutch plate or disc assemblies, and then obtain the engineering drawings for those assemblies. The latter documents may show one or more approved suppliers for the plate or disc or its friction material. Then it would be necessary to try to find purchasing records, if even still available, to determine which supplier was actually used. Because of the huge number of different cars, trucks, engines, and transmissions that GM manufactured and sold from 1950 to 1990, this process would have to be repeated hundreds or thousands of times. The documents needed no longer exist for much of this period and those that do exist are in many