Abex

An IC Industries Company

Abex Corporation
Research Center
Mahwah NJ 07430
201 529 3450

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Chrysler

TO: B. Iwarsson
Friction Products Group, Winchester

FROM: D. G. Manly

In view of the concern for major accounts and problem areas within Friction Products, the following status type comments are in order:

1. Eaton 551C - Outlook: optimistic

This formulation has continued to give us severe concern since last summer. We have completed extensive testing on a slight modification of this formulation (898-43). Most of the data has already been presented to Eaton and pronounced acceptable. We were scheduled to go into production with this before the strike and are now prepared to do so. This material has passed the DOT 121 test in 12 out of 13 tests (see Table 1). The reason for the failure is not known. We have every reason to believe that this material will continue to perform well but does not pass with the margin of safety that all of us would like to see.

Therefore, we are continuing our efforts to develop a medium friction block which will be suitable for this application. This material is already showing promise and is a totally new formulation which is in no way similar to 551C. It is a simple, straightforward product. I expect that we will have a formulation well tested by July 1.

Going back to 551C for a moment, we have unearthed a correlation of performance with changes in openness of asbestos fibers. This is a correlation on paper which looks too good to be true, and we must test it experimentally to be sure. This work should be completed by May 15. If this work proves out, we will have a total explanation of all previous results.

Another thing we have learned out of all this work is that resin level, in addition to affecting performance, can also affect scrap