FILE NAME: Ford (FD)

DATE: 1977 July 12

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Inter Office

Supply Staff

July 12, 1977

PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT FD-468

Mr. D. T. Aron

Subject: Development of Non-Asbestos Products

For your information, Materials Strategy received a request to review NAAO Purchasing forward year plans. An interesting topic in the plan is asbestos, which reads "Proposed new OSHA standards (0.5 to 1.0 fibers/cc) for airborne exposure may force many Ford suppliers to cease production of asbestos brake and clutch linings and gasket materials. NAAO Purchasing and Product Engineering have established a program to expedite development of alternate materials." After reading the NAAO statement, I contacted various Engineering activities this morning to identify the names of individuals developing asbestos-free gaskets, brake linings, clutch facings, and transmission clutch plates. In each instance the design engineer advised that he was aware of proposed OSHA rules to limit airborne asbestos contaminants to .5 fiber/cc but that work was continuing on the asbestos products and, to their knowledge, assignments to develop asbestos-free parts were not expected.

I discussed development of asbestos-free parts with Frank Abar, Manager, Program Control and Planning Department, T&C Division, and he advised that development of asbestos-free products will not be initiated until funds are authorized for development. Abar said he requested funding for a minimal advance transmission program with asbestos-free parts but the request would have to be approved by some "mythical" central Engineering activity and he does not expect funding. Abar said he did not believe much, if any, work would be initiated until funding was authorized. Additionally, Abar stated that suppliers do not appear to be concerned with meeting .5 fiber/cc and, in his opinion, there is little need to proceed with a development program until there are better indications that development expense is justified.

D. P. Cratty

jl

cc - B. B. Murray