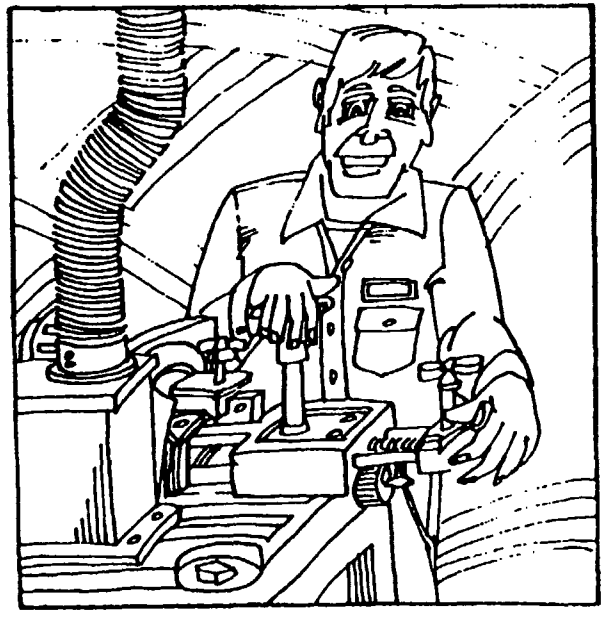
USE DUST COLLECTION EQUIPMENT WHEN MACHINING



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INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this booklet is to provide practical guidelines for brake and clutch service mechanics in the handling and processing of asbestos containing friction materials and in the maintenance and repair of brake and clutch assemblies on which the materials are installed.

Adherence to the recommended work practices will reduce employee exposure to airborne concentrations of asbestos dust and will assist employers in complying with government regulations.

This area is regulated by federal, state and local authorities. We caution that you may not rely on strict adherence to the work practices recommended herein as assuring compliance with these regulations, because (a) they are subject to amendment; (b) there are on-going administrative interpretations of these regulations; and (c) particular field conditions may vary. You should direct all questions relating to compliance with regulations to the appropriate regulatory agencies.

ASBESTOS AND FRICTION MATERIALS

Most molded friction materials contain about 50% asbestos - some woven materials over 90%. In molded materials, resin binders prevent the release of asbestos fibers during normal handling. Woven friction materials, normally used only in construction and industrial applications, must be handled with care to avoid creating dust as the asbestos fibers are less firmly bound into the product.

Potentially hazardous airborne concentrations of asbestos dust can be created by improper cleaning and handling of worn brake and clutch assemblies, uncontrolled machining operations and poor housekeeping.

Breathing excessive quantities of asbestos fiber can cause respiratory disease and cancer. Smoking greatly increases the risk of lung cancer among asbestos workers. Prevention of asbestos dust exposure is the only known method of eliminating asbestos-related disease among those working with asbestos containing products.

Proper work practices offer the best assurance of providing exposure safeguards for workers removing, installing and machining asbestos containing friction materials.