

CUSTOMER FOCUS ON LOSS CONTROL

NUMBER 18

OSHA And Asbestos In The Garage

In October 1994, OSHA issued regulations concerning controls and work practices for brake and clutch repair and service. During brake and clutch inspection, disassembly, repair and assembly operations, employers shall institute controls and work practices to reduce employee exposure to materials containing asbestos, using a negative pressure enclosure/HEPA vacuum system method or low pressure/wet cleaning method.

Wet Method

For facilities in which no more than five pair of brakes or five clutches are inspected, disassembled, repaired or assembled per week, the *wet method* may be used. The *wet method* consists of the following steps:

- A spray bottle, hose nozzle, or other implement capable of delivering a fine mist of water at low pressure, shall be used to first thoroughly wet the brake and clutch parts. Brake and clutch components shall then be wiped clean with a cloth.
- The cloth shall be placed in an impermeable container labeled:

DANGER
CONTAINS ASBESTOS FIBERS
AVOID CREATING DUST
CANCER AND LUNG DISEASE HAZARD

- The container shall be disposed of using established EPA/State methods, including prescribed documentation, utilizing licensed regulated waste transporters and an EPA/State approved disposal facility.

HEPA Method

When using the *HEPA method* for more frequent work on brakes and clutches, the operation shall be enclosed to cover and contain the clutch or brake assembly and to prevent the release of asbestos fibers into the worker's breathing zone.

- The enclosure shall be sealed tightly and thoroughly inspected for leaks before work begins on the assembly.
- The enclosure shall be such that the worker can clearly see the operation and shall provide impermeable sleeves through which the worker can handle the operation. The integrity of the sleeves and ports shall be examined before work begins.
- A HEPA-filtered vacuum shall be employed to maintain the enclosure under negative pressure throughout the operation.
- The HEPA vacuum shall be used to loosen the asbestos residue and then to evacuate the material from the enclosure.
- The vacuum's filter, when full, shall be wetted with a fine mist of water, placed in an impermeable container, labeled, and disposed of according to regulations.

Low Pressure/Wet Cleaning Method

The *low pressure/wet cleaning* method requires the following steps:

- Place a catch basin under the assembly.
- Use water containing an organic solvent or wetting agent to gently flood the assembly so as to prevent the brake dust from becoming airborne.
- Thoroughly wet the brake drum, wheel hub, brake assembly and all brake component parts, to suppress dust.
- Dispose of the aqueous solution properly.

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