

## Q's and A's on Asbestos in Brakes

Q: Do all brakes contain asbestos?

A: No. Many, but not all, automobile manufacturers have switched to substitutes for asbestos in brakes.

Q: Does the Federal Government regulate work practices involving brakes containing asbestos.

A: Yes. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has mandatory engineering controls and work practices that must be implemented by the employer during automotive brake and clutch inspection, disassembly, repair and assembly operations. These regulations are found at 29 CFR Part 1910.1001 Appendix F.

Q: I change my own brakes and am not covered by the OSHA regulations. What precautions should I take?

A: While OSHA's regulations apply to the workplace, it would be prudent to follow the practices outlined in their regulations. In addition, in 1986 EPA issued the "Gold Book" titled: "Guidance for Preventing Disease Among Auto Mechanics"<sup>1</sup> and a pamphlet titled: "Controlling Brake Dust to Protect Your Health...What Every Auto Mechanic Should Know". While this guidance was issued specifically for auto mechanics, it is still useful for the do-it-yourselfer. You may obtain these documents by calling EPA's Asbestos Hotline at 1-800-471-7127.

<sup>1</sup>Please note that this guidance document is currently under Agency review. EPA expects to have an updated version of the brochure in the Spring of 2004. As part of this process, the public will be given an opportunity to review any revisions before EPA finalizes an updated version.

Q: How can I find out if my car's brakes contain asbestos?

A: You need to check with the automobile manufacturer concerning the specific model and year for your car.