



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

AUG 17 2006

OFFICE OF
PREVENTION, PESTICIDES AND
TOXIC SUBSTANCES

Mr. Dino Privitera
Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP
170 Market Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-2921

Re: Follow-up Response to Request for Correction (RFC) regarding the United States (US) Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Guidance for Preventing Asbestos Disease Among Auto Mechanics (the Gold Book) pursuant to the U.S. EPA's Information Quality Guidelines (RFC# 12467).

Dear Mr. Privitera:

I am writing to inform you that EPA is releasing for public comment a draft brochure entitled, *Current Best Practices for Preventing Asbestos Exposure Among Brake and Clutch Repair Workers*. When finalized, this brochure will update and supersede the existing document entitled, *Guidance for Preventing Asbestos Disease Among Auto Mechanics* (EPA-560-OPTS-86-002), commonly referred to as the "Gold Book." EPA is providing 60 days for the public to review and comment on the draft brochure.

On August 19, 2003, you submitted a Request for Correction under EPA's Information Quality Guidelines concerning the 1986 publication. On November 24, 2003, EPA responded to your letter, stating that the Agency would update the auto mechanics' brochure and intended to provide the public with an opportunity to comment. Today's action fulfills this commitment to update the document and to provide it for public comment. We also intend to notify those parties who provided comment on the Request for Correction of the release of the draft brochure and opportunity for comment.

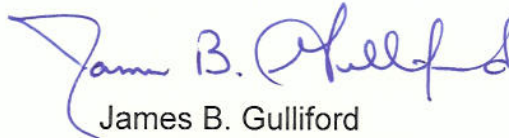
The draft brochure being released summarizes work practices that may be used to avoid asbestos exposure and identifies pertinent Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulatory requirements for professional automotive mechanics, which are found at 29 CFR Part 1910.1001 and specifically paragraph (f)(3) and Appendix F. These regulations were not in place at the time the "Gold Book" was originally published. The same requirements also are contained in EPA's Worker Protection Rule, found at 40 CFR Part 763, Subpart G, which applies to state and local government employees who perform brake and clutch work in states without OSHA-approved state plans. The draft brochure also provides information for home mechanics to consider. Please also note that on July 26, 2006, OSHA issued a Safety and Health Information Bulletin for Asbestos-Automotive Brake and Clutch Repair

Work, which informs employees and employers in the automotive brake repair industry of the precautions that must be taken when working with automotive brakes and clutches containing asbestos. The information in the draft EPA brochure is consistent with the information contained in the OSHA Bulletin.

The public is being encouraged to provide comments on the draft brochure to EPA via <http://www.regulations.gov> under docket identification number **EPA-HQ-OPPT-2006-0398**. I also plan to notify you when EPA has completed its review of the comments and its development of a final brochure. Both the draft brochure, and the final brochure when it becomes available, will be available on the EPA website at <http://www.epa.gov/asbestos>.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Wendy Cleland-Hamnett of my staff at 202-564-6745.

Sincerely,



James B. Gulliford
Assistant Administrator

cc: Linda A. Travers, Acting Assistant Administrator for Environmental Information, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency